

Statement III

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Allocation for 1997-98 (Rupees in Crores)
1.	Vocational Training in Tribal Areas for ST girls and boys	3.75
2.	Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for ST Girls	4.00
3.	Grant in aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations.	10.00
4.	Village Grain Banks for Drought Prone Areas (Excluding Assam)	2.00
5.	Pre Examination Coaching for Weaker Sections	2.50
6.	Special Educational Development Programme for SC Girls belonging to Very Low Literacy Levels	3.80

Statement IV

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Status of release as on date
1.	Vocational Training in Tribal Areas for ST Girls and Boys	Rs. 0.86 crores has been released in the State of Gujarat. No release has been made in other States during 1997-98.
2.	Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for ST Girls	It is released to NGOs, not to State Governments.
3.	Grant in Aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations	NIL
4.	Village Grain Banks for Drought Prone Areas (Excluding Assam)	NIL
5.	Pre Examination Coaching for Weaker Sections	It is released to NGOs, not to State Governments.
6.	Special Educational Development Programme for SC Girls belonging to Very Low Literacy Levels	NIL

Prices of Medicines

987. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been steep hike in the prices of medicines during the last one year;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the efforts made by the Government to boost the production of medicines in the Country; and

(d) whether the prices of life saving drugs are likely to come down as a result of the efforts made by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Like in other commodities, some price increase in the case of medicines is inevitable. However studies conducted from time to time do not indicate any general abnormal price increase in the case of medicines in recent times. The Wholesale Price Index (1981-82 = 100) has shown an increase of 1.69% for Drugs and Medicines vis-a-vis 5.91% for All Commodities during the period April '96 to March '97.

(b) General analysis of the causes of high prices of medicines, both under and outside price control, reveal the following as the prime factors viz. increase in the prices of bulk drugs, excipients (e.g. alcohol, sugar, solvent, etc.), cost of packaging, fluctuations in foreign exchange rate (for imported items), changes in excise duty, hike in Maximum Allowable Post-manufacturing Expenses (MAPE), increase in trade margin in case of decontrolled items etc.

(c) Steps taken to boost production of medicines inter-alia, are:—

(i) Abolition of industrial licensing.

(ii) Emphasis on Research & Development.

(iii) Simplification of pricing system.

(iv) Incentives for production from basic stage.

(d) With the ushering in of era of liberalisation, through free imports, lower duty rates, doing away with industrial licensing, encouraging R & D and simplified price control system, it is expected that increased

competition would lead to reduction in prices. However, inflationary pressures, high cost of R & D also have to be reckoned with.

Militancy in Nagaland

988. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received reports that part of the money collected from the Nagaland State Lotteries passes on to groups of Nagaland Militants from which they purchase arms and ammunition;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up this matter with the Government of Nagaland; and

(d) the steps taken to break the nexus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Government has seen newspaper reports to the effect that the sole distributor of Nagaland lotteries has made payments to militant groups.

(c) and (d) Government of Nagaland have been advised to stop the running of State Lotteries immediately till inquires into the allegations are over.

Investment on Storage Capacity by FCI

989. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the initiatives taken during the last one year to streamline and modernise the operations and network of FCI in the country; and

(b) the details of investment proposed on storage during the current year and the next three years for addition/expansion/modernisation of FCI particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) To streamline and modernise the storage operations, FCI has undertaken upgradation of existing Railway Sidings, including electrification. FCI is replacing old mechanical lorry weighbridges with the electronic weighbridges. FCI has also installed in-motion wagon weighbridges for purpose of rake weighment.

In order to modernise conventional storage systems, FCI is examining bin/vacuum technology system etc.

(b) For the current financial year, the budget allocation is Rs. 20 crores. In Maharashtra, FCI has planned a storage capacity of 15,000 MT at Sholapur involving an investment of about Rs. 1 crore.

[Translation]

Grants for Handicapped Children School

990. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of assistance being provided to the societies running schools for mentally retarded and physically handicapped children;

(b) whether the Government have any scheme to provide hundred percent assistance to the societies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The Central Government extends financial assistance upto 40% of the total admissible grant to the NGOs/Societies following the favourable recommendation of the State Govts.

(b) to (d) No Sir, does not arise.

[English]

Changes in Coca Cola Holdings

991. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the request for changes in Coca Cola South Asia Holdings (CCSAH) \$ 700 million proposal has been submitted to the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals (SIA) without vetting by the Ministry of Food Processing;

(b) whether SIA has sent the proposal for the consideration of the Cabinet Committee on Foreign Investment;

(c) if so, the reasons for bypassing the Ministry of Food Processing; and

(d) the normal guidelines for proposals affecting more than one Ministry?