

(e) the measures adopted or proposed to be adopted to stop sea erosion ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

Misuse of Overhead Coloured Lights

2170. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the blatant misuse of blue, red and coloured lights overhead on cars in Delhi ;

(b) if so, the norms and guidelines laid down for use of such lights ; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such misuse and the resultant disturbance to road traffic in Delhi caused thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules, 1993 provide that no motor vehicle owner, except certain specified categories, shall allow or fix any coloured light in the front and on top of the roof other than the rear of the motor vehicle provided that this provision shall not apply to the internal lighting indicator.

(c) A special drive was launched by Delhi Police to prosecute the violators for misuse of coloured lights which resulted in 53 cases of prosecution during first six months of 1997.

[Translation]

Gap between Support Price and Purchase Price

2171. PROF. RREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the gap between the support price and the consumer purchase price is constantly increasing in the country ;

(b) if not, the support price of the potato and apple in Himachal Pradesh and estimated minimum and optimum consumer purchase price of items in the country ;

(c) whether the interests of consumers are being affected adversely due to this gap ; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Minimum Support Prices

(MSP) for agricultural commodities are announced by Government based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) which fixes the MSP on the basis of cost of production etc. for the entire crop year. MSP are in the nature of minimum remunerative prices payable to farmers in the event of significant fall in market prices of these commodities so as to protect the income of the farmers. MSP, therefore, may not move in tandem with consumer purchase prices, because the consumer purchase prices are retail prices, which are influenced by, *inter alia*, the overall supply and demand conditions of the commodity, trading costs and margins, prevailing market conditions etc. While MSP is a constant price for the entire period of the crop year, market prices keep fluctuating.

(c) and (d) Government has accorded the highest priority to protect the interests of the consumers. Apart from certain long-term measures to increase the production of essential commodities, imports of commodities which are in short supply are encouraged to augment the availability of these items. Some of the commodities are also supplied through the Public Distribution System and Cooperative Stores at prices which are below market levels. Further, stringent actions are being taken against hoarders and black marketeers and others indulging in unfair trade practices under the Essential Commodities Act and prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act etc. by the State/UT Governments.

National Live Stock Policy

2172. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating to formulate any National Live Stock Policy ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the draft policy has been prepared and sent to the State Governments for their opinion; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Governments in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Formulation of a National Livestock Policy is being contemplated to steer the growth of the livestock sector in an organised and coordinated manner and to enhance production and overall efficiency. The policy approach include, *inter alia*

(i) participation of the small producers in the process of growth and globalisation

(ii) intensification of breeding services for genetic improvements

- (iii) focus on development of feed and fodder resources
- (iv) reorganisation of extension and training activities
- (v) bringing about efficiency in the processing sector
- (vi) control and eradication of animal diseases
- (vii) promotion of sustainability of the growth in the sector.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the draft National Livestock Policy and approach to the livestock sector in the Ninth Plan were discussed in detail at the Conference of the State Ministers for Animal Husbandry and Dairying in December, 1996. The approach and policy issues were largely endorsed at this meeting by the State Governments.

[English]

National Fertilizer Limited

2173. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Karsan of Turkey has slapped a counter claim against the National Fertilizer Limited;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) the details of compensation sought from NFL ; and
- (d) the total loss suffered till date by NFL in the deal ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNCHALAM) : (a) to (c) M/s. Karsan Limited have filed a counter claim of US\$ 50.15 million against M/s. National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) in the arbitration case before International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Paris.

(d) M/s. National Fertilizers Ltd. had filed a compensation claim of US\$ 53.05 million for losses incurred on account of advance payment made for supply of urea, interest loss, liquidated damages etc.

[Translation]

Violence in Tihar Jail

2174. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a violent fight/clash had taken place between two groups of undertrial prisoners recently in Tihar Jail in Delhi;
- (b) if so, whether enquiry has been conducted into this incident;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof ; and

(d) the action taken against the persons found guilty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The enquiry conducted into the incident has revealed that the fight took place as a consequence of an incident of beating of a prisoner belonging to one group by prisoners belonging to another rival group.

(d) A criminal case has been registered at Police Station Hari Nagar against the inmates involved in the fight. The two groups have since been segregated and lodged separately. Delhi Police have been informed to provide adequate security to the said inmates while escorting them for production before courts and referral to outside hospital.

[English]

Rehabilitation of Slum Dwellers

2175. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Chandigarh Administration about deforestation of reserved forest land or any other proposal about it with a view to rehabilitate the slum-dwellers and to give possession to some allottees of the industrial plots ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any action has been taken on the proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) No such proposal has been received by the Ministry under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe

2176. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of posts vacant under various categories in his Ministry/departments State-wise;
- (b) the steps taken to clear the said backlog ;