

(c) and (d) The Government has been taking a number of steps to control the prices of essential commodities. 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. 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 by the State/UT Governments.

Project on Street Children

1060. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined any project on street children with a view to educate and rehabilitate them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stage at which the project stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) The Scheme for Welfare of Street Children is an ongoing programme of the Government which aims to provide integrated community based non-institutional basic services for the care, protection and development of Street Children facing destitution, neglect, abuse and exploitation. Under the Scheme Grants in aid upto 90% of the cost of the project are provided to Non-Governmental Organisations for establishing projects for 300 Street Children each. The essential components of each Project include provision of nutrition, literacy, vocational training, counselling and preventive health services to Street Children. The Scheme is currently being implemented in 23 cities of the country.

Cultivation of Black Pepper

1061. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the cultivation of black pepper;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any research has been made on "Silt Wilt" which is affecting the black pepper cultivation; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India is implementing a scheme on integrated programme for development of spices at an outlay of Rs. 1123.75 lakhs for black pepper development during the year 1997-98. The scheme includes programmes on production and distribution of quality planting material, rehabilitation of old pepper gardens, adoption of plant protection measures and transfer of technology through demonstration etc.

(c) and (d) There is no Silt-Wilt disease in black pepper. However, there is a slow wild disease affecting black pepper. The research findings have suggested following control measures:

- (I) Selective application of Phorate @ 30 gram/Vine twice a year reduce the disease severely.
- (II) Application of Neem Cake @ 1 Kg/Vine also improves the health of the Vine, continuous application of organics would reduce the pathogen population.
- (III) Raising of a hygienic nursery ensuring disease free rooted cuttings is the recommended strategy.
- (IV) For *Phytophthora Capsici* drenching the base of the pepper vines with cooper Oxychloride (0.2%) during pre- and Post-Monsoon period is recommended to reduce the disease.
- (V) Foliar spraying with Bordeaux mixture (1%) to check foliar infection caused by *P. Capsici* is also recommended.

Installation of Bore Wells and Hand-Pumps in Tamil Nadu

1062. SHRI P. SHANMUGAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any delay in the relief work in the Southern districts of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the total fund allocation during the current year for installing bore wells in Dindigul and Kamaraj districts; and

(d) the time by which the remaining work concerning the repair of the hand-pump and bore wells is expected to be completed for the benefit of parched people in the Southern districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) No report has been received about any delay in relief work in the Southern districts of Tamil Nadu.

(c) and (d) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Government, the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment provide grants to the State Government under a Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Rs. 52.47 crores has been released during 1996-97 and Rs. 18.94 crores during 1997-98 to Tamil Nadu under the Programme. The district-wise/scheme-wise allocation under the Programme are decided by the State Government and the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment do not keep the district-wise information.

Atrocities on SC/ST

1063. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR :
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have record of atrocities committed on Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the number of persons killed and injured in these incidents and the number of incidents of rape and burning of houses during the last three years;

(d) the details of the convictions;

(e) the nature of protection, relief and rehabilitation provided to the victims or the families of the victims; and

(f) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent such recurrence in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Available information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The information relating to number of persons killed or injured incident-wise is not separately maintained at Central level. However, the information about incidents of rape and burning of houses (arson) of SCs/STs during the last three years is given here below:

	S.C's		S.T.'s	
	Rape	Arson	Rape	Arson
1994	992	533	385	36
1995	872	500	369	40
1996	922	441	302	45

(d) The information pertaining to convictions of accused persons in cases relating to SCs/STs is not maintained separately by the Central Government.

(e) and (f) It is essentially for the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations to devise such measures and programmes as are necessary to provide protection, relief & rehabilitation to the victims of atrocities. It is also for the State Govts./Union Territory Administrations to prevent recurrence of incidents of atrocities against SCs/ STs.

The Central Government on its own part, has been sending advisories to the State Governments on the subject and is providing financial assistance to not only improve the policing infrastructure but also to set up Special Courts for quicker disposal of cases relating to SCs/STs.