

[Translation]

Inclusion of Jains in Minority Community

*239. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Minority Commission has recommended the Jain community to be declared as the minority community;

(b) if so, the basis thereof; and

(c) whether the Commission is empowered to declare any community as the minority?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The basis on which the National Commission for Minorities has recommended inclusion of Jains in minority community are :

(i) the tenets of Jain religion, its philosophy and ethic, its objects and manner of worship are entirely different from those of the Hindus;

(ii) the fact that Jainism differs from Hinduism in its religious practice;

(iii) The constitutional provision under Explanation (II) to Article 25(2) (b) places Jain religion alongwith Sikh and Buddhist religions for the purpose of the Article 25(2) (b);

(iv) Decisions of various High Courts holding that Jainism is a distinct religion different from Hinduism;

(v) Population of the Jains is considerable as compared to those of Buddhists or Parsis as per 1971 and 1981 census figures.

(c) No, Sir.

[English]

Use of Land by Agriculturists

*240. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agitation is going to in the areas surrounding Taj Mahal in regard to the use of lands by agriculturists;

(b) whether the State Government authorities have failed to offer alternative lands to the existing agriculturists and rather renewed the lease of lands in some parts there;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action to fix the responsibility of the defaulting officials;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Working of WTO

2440. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether experts in Indian Agriculture have pointed out certain aspects of the working of WTO treaty that would adversely affect the Indian Farmers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to safeguard the interests of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Divergent views on the likely impact of the new GATT agreement in so far as it relates to Indian agriculture and the farmers have been expressed by several experts on Indian agriculture. The Government would take all measures to safeguard the interest of farmers while implementing the new agreement.

[Translation]

Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited

2441. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the I.D.P.L. factory located at Virbhadra (Rishikesh) of Uttar Pradesh has been closed as there is not production in the factory since October, 1996;

(b) the number of labourers/employees affected as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Government are taking any immediate action for the rehabilitation and livelihood of these affected labourers and employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (d) The production in the IDPL factory at Virbhadra (Rishikesh) has stopped since October, 1996, mainly on account of financial constraints. However, there is no closure of the unit as such. No worker or employee of the unit has been laid-off.

[English]

TADA Cases

2442. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to release 2000 detenues arrested under TADA; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) In pursuance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgement delivered in Kartar Singh Vs. Government of Punjab in March, 1994, Review Committees at the level of Central Government as well as States/UTs were constituted to review the TADA cases and as a result of review undertaken by these Committees as many as 11899 cases have been reviewed and TADA provisions have been dropped against as many as 28502 and 20037 persons have been released on bail by the Courts. Further State Governments have also been requested to issue suitable instructions to their prosecution branches to ensure expeditious trial of the remaining TADA cases and not to seek adjournment on flimsy grounds. It is because of the concerted efforts made by the Central Government that as per available information only 1664 persons are under detention. There is however, no proposal to release these detenues. It is the prerogative of the Designated TADA Courts to release them on bail or otherwise.

Concentration of Mercury in Waste Water

2443. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news report appearing in 'Hindustan Times' dated December 10, 1996 that the scientists of the Central Pollution Control Board have criticised the recent Greenpeace report on high concentration of mercury in waste water discharge from a chlor-alkali plant in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Pollution Control Board had reviewed the Greenpeace report. There is no possibility of presence of high concentration of mercury in the Waste Water being discharged from a chlor-alkali plant located in Delhi as the plant is based on Diaphragm Cell technology which does not involve mercury anywhere in the process.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts in FCI

2444. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 1709 dated December 3, 1996 regarding the vacant posts in Food Corporation of India and state :

(a) whether the required information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the information would be collected?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) A copy of the reply dated 3.3.1997 to Unstarred Question No. 1709 dated 3.12.1996 sent for laying on the Table of the House is enclosed as Statement-I and Statement-II.

Statement-I

Date of Fulfilment 03.03.1997

Ministry of Food, Department of Food Procurement and Distribution, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi

S.No., Date and Name of MP (s).	Subject	Promise Made	When and How Fulfilled	Reason for Delay
1	2	3	4	5
1709. Dt. 3.12.1996, by Sh. Ashok Pradhan.	Vacant Posts in FCI	(a) to (d)- The information is being collected.		
	(a) whether a number of posts under the various categories are lying vacant in the Food Corporation of India for the last many years.		(a) Yes Sir.	
	(b) if so, the categories of posts and date from which these have been lying vacant alongwith the number of posts belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe out of these posts and the sanctioned strength of these posts in each category;		(b) The details are given in the attached statement.	