

- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the time by which the quota cuts are expected to be restored; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to increase the quota of food-grains and edible oils for the State during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (f) Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under the joint responsibility of Central Government and State Governments/UT Administrations. Central Government procures and distributes in bulk to States/UTs. State Governments allocate foodgrains within the state on the basis of priorities fixed by them. The allocation of foodgrains under the TPDS is made on the basis of average annual lifting for the last 10 years taking into account the requirements of BPL population. Uttar Pradesh has been allocated more foodgrains than its average annual lifting in view of the large BPL population in the State. The allocation is higher than the offtake in 1996-97 which, in turn, was the highest in recent years. The State Government has been advised to ensure availability of foodgrains in food deficit areas.

The quota of the imported Palmolein is given to the States on the basis of their demand. Government of Uttar Pradesh has not made any demand in the last few years. Therefore, the question of increasing the quota of edible oil to U.P. does not arise. The Central Government has not finalised the import programme for 1997-98.

[English]

Pre-Examination Coaching to SC/ST Students

959. SHRI MUNNI LAL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any policy to establish coaching institutes for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates for preparation of competitive examinations for different categories of All India Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of successful candidates come out from such institutes in different categories of services during the last three years?

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

(b) Under this scheme free coaching is provided to SC/ST students through Pre-Examination Training Centres to enable them to compete successfully in the competitive examinations conducted by UPSC, State Public Service Commission, Public Sector Undertaking and other recruiting bodies. Central Assistance is provided on a matching basis of 50 : 50 to the States over and above their committed liability and on 100% basis in case of U.Ts. Universities and Pvt. Coaching institutes.

(c) The information is being collected from the concerned agencies.

Purulia Arms Dropping Case

960. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one foreign agency had alerted the Government about the possibility of arms dropping operation in West Bengal-Bihar border areas specially at Purulia;

(b) if so, the reasons for not alerting the concerned security agencies;

(c) the action initiated by the Government for such negligence;

(d) whether the Government have taken action on the recommendations of the Committee on Government Assurances on Purulia Arms Dropping Case; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. the R&AW had obtained advance information about the possibility of arms being unloaded by a small plane after landing at an abandoned airfield in Dhanbad area of Bihar for an insurgent group of that area. This information was conveyed to another intelligence agency by R&AW. The Government of Bihar was accordingly sensitised by the concerned intelligence agency.

(c) The Central Bureau of Investigation which has been entrusted with the investigation of this case has submitted reports highlighting certain administrative lapses on the part of different agencies that came to light during the investigation. The concerned authorities have been apprised of the reports of the CBI for appropriate action.

(d) and (e) The Committee had observed that in view of the importance of the case, Central Bureau of Investigation should pursue the matter vigorously and bring the investigations to an early conclusion. The Committee also hoped that it would be kept apprised of the progress made in the investigation in the case in the coming days. Accordingly, Ministry of Home Affairs are monitoring the progress of the case and the Committee is being kept apprised of the progress of investigation on a regular basis.

National Handicapped Welfare Fund

961. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up National Handicapped Welfare Fund for creating services etc. for the handicapped persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the date of its setting up;

(c) whether the said fund has not been utilized properly for the last fourteen years; and

(d) the amount that is available for the purpose along with the total donation received, year-wise?

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

(b) The National Handicapped Welfare Fund was created on 11.8.83 to fulfil the following objectives:

(i) To promote voluntary sector for creating services for the handicapped for prevention, early detection of disabilities, education, training, physical and economic rehabilitation of disabled persons.

(ii) To do all other things that are incidental and conducive to the above objective.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The scheme to be funded out of National Handicapped Welfare Fund could not be financed. As such, no funds could be utilised.

Naxalite Problem

962. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :
SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE :
SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the naxal activities in the State of Andhra Pradesh are increasing day by day with the result a number of innocent people have fallen victims of their activities;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed and the damages caused to property and Government installations and other infrastructure during the last one year;

(c) whether the Union Government have agreed to provide two more battalions of Central Reserve Police Force for Andhra Pradesh to combat the Naxal activities in the State;

(d) if so, the total number of battalions of CRPF provided to the State at present and whether the demands of the State Government have been fully met in this regard;

(e) whether the Naxal activities are also increasing in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Orissa; and

(f) if so, whether the Union Government have suggested to these States to have a common force to check the naxalite activities in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) As per available information, in Andhra Pradesh naxalite violence this year is less compared to the corresponding period of last year. However, the incidents are on the higher side when compared to the preceding half year.

(b) (i) The available information regarding the number of persons killed in the naxalite violence are as under:—

Year	No. of Persons killed
1996 (July to December)	105
1997 (Jan. to June)	115