

(b) No Criteria is fixed by Government of India for supply of the PDS commodities in the States on a per unit basis except that each family below poverty line (BPL) is entitled to 10 Kg. of foodgrains per month at specially subsidised prices. The States/UTs fix the scale of distribution according to criteria fixed by them keeping in view the total availability of foodgrains and the target group (other than BPL families) they wish to cover.

(c) There is no report of PDS not working satisfactorily in any State. However, the efficiency of the functioning of PDS is not uniform in all the States and there is scope for improvement.

(d) No. Sir, except that the States have been asked to ensure supply of 10 Kg. of foodgrains to BPL families throughout the country.

[Translation]

#### ISI Agents

\*186. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Bengal samet teen Rajyon mein ISI ne tayar kiye panch sau agent" appearing in *Jansatta*, dated May 12, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Government do not have any information regarding recruitment of 500 youths by the ISI in the States of West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Government is, however, aware of the sinister designs of Pak ISI to destabilise India by sponsoring terrorism and subversive activities in different parts of the country including its efforts to target and train misguided youths for engineering violence. A close and continuous watch is, therefore, being kept on the situation and all necessary efforts, including sustained operations against terrorists and subversive elements, are being made to ensure that such designs are not allowed to succeed. Government have taken several steps which include sensitising and gearing up of the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and coordinated actions by concerned Central and State agencies, border fencing, intensification of border patrolling, supply of equipments for effective observations during day and night, increase in number of Nakas (check posts) as well as sensitising and alerting the State Governments regarding movement of Pak ISI agents, anti-national elements and insurgents.

[English]

#### Terrorist Violence in North Eastern States

\*187. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :  
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment about the latest rising wave of terrorist violence in North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the total loss of property and public installations during the aforesaid period indicating the number of police stations attacked during the period ;

(c) whether the Government have taken steps to bring the terrorist outfits into the national mainstream ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) The situation in the insurgency-affected North Eastern States is being monitored regularly and is reviewed from time to time at various levels.

(b) Specific information on these items is not maintained, though information relating to various incidents of militant violence, and action by security forces, are maintained.

(c) and (d) The Government have extended an open invitation to any group of individuals including the militants for talks without any pre-condition to discuss their legitimate grievances. The Prime Minister in a Statement to both Houses of Parliament on 25 July, 1997 informed, *inter-alia*, that after talks with the Issac-Muivah group of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, it has now been agreed to cease fire for three months with effect from last August, 1997 and embark upon political level discussions. The Prime Minister also extended his appeal to other militant groups in Nagaland.

#### National Handicapped Welfare Fund

\* 188. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :  
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a National Handicapped Welfare Fund was created sometime in 1983 to create jobs for the handicapped;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which it has been used for the purposes meant for it;

(d) whether there are some States, which could not utilise the fund sanctioned by the Central Government; and

(e) if so, the names of such States and the reaction of the Central Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) (a) and (b) The National Handicapped Welfare Fund was created on 11/8/83 to fulfil the following.

(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) The schemes to be funded out of the Fund have not been finalised, hence funds could not be utilised.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Arrears due to Sugarcane Growers

\*189. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :  
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

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

(a) whether there has been increase in the outstanding amount payable to farmers by the sugar mills;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the present status of the arrears to be paid by Private and Cooperative mills to the sugarcane growers separately, State-wise;

(d) whether cane was not lifted by some sugar mills in some States during 1996-97;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government propose to compensate farmers whose cane was not lifted; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) According to the latest information furnished by sugar factories, as on 15.6.1997 the cane price dues to farmers relating to the current sugar season (1996-97) were about Rs. 769.99 crores, representing 12.2% of the total cane price payable, while the cane price

dues to farmers relating to the previous sugar season (1995-96) on the corresponding date were about Rs. 1642.65 crores representing 20.6 of the total cane price payable.

(c) As per the latest information furnished by the sugar factories, a Statement showing the State-wise position of the arrears to be paid to the sugarcane growers by sugar mills of different sectors for the current sugar season (1996-97) as on 15.6.1997 is attached.

(d) to (g) No information has been received by the Government about non-lifting of sugarcane by the sugar mills during 1996-97 season.

#### Statement

*State-wise position of arrears to be paid to the sugarcane growers by the sugar mills in different sectors for the current Sugar Season 1996-97 as on 15.6.1997*

State	Cane Price Arrears		
	Public Sector	Cooperative Sector	Private Sector
Punjab	49.04	37.62	45.94
Haryana	Nil	48.31	24.84
Rajasthan	Nil	1.52	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	109.53	74.64	152.87
Madhya Pradesh	Nil	6.50	13.17
Gujarat	Nil	4.81	Nil
Maharashtra	Nil	13.08	0.61
Bihar	16.00	0.00	56.98
Assam	Nil	0.16	Nil
Andhra Pradesh	17.56	1.37	15.78
Karnataka	0.01	5.93	14.41
Tamil Nadu	5.77	24.62	26.93
Kerala	Nil	Negligible*	Nil
Orissa	Nil	Nil	NIL
West Bengal	0.12	Nil	Nil
Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pondicherry	Nil	1.82	0.05
Goa	Nil	Nil	NL
<b>Total</b>	<b>198.03</b>	<b>220.38</b>	<b>351.58</b>

\* Rs. 013 lakhs