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	<p>ment during 1996-97 for the Central Pool fell by about 4.1 Million Tonnes. Government, therefore decided to import upto 2 million Tonnes of wheat during 1996-97 to augment its availability in the country and to contain the rising trend in the prices of wheat in the domestic market. Import of wheat had therefore, nothing to do with the export sales by FCI.</p>

[Translation]

Central Official Language Committee

3144. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which neither the reconstitution nor any meeting of the Central Official Language Committee for the last two years; and

(b) the reasons for not constituting Hindi Advisory Committee in Prime Minister's Office and also for non-constitution of Official Languages Implementation Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) There is no committee namely Central Official Language Committee, however there is a Central Hindi Committee which is under the process of reconstitution.

(b) Prime Minister's Office is not a regular Ministry or Department of Government. It is a small office which renders secretarial assistance to the Prime Minister. In view of this it was not felt necessary to constitute Hindi Advisory Committee and Official Language Committee for this office. An additional Secretary has been entrusted with the duty of implementing instructions issued for the progressive use of Hindi.

[English]

Trawling in Arabian Sea

3145. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a ban was imposed on the trawling vessel of Kerala in the Arabian Sea whereas the foreign vessel and vessels of other States are operating there;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The Government of Kerala has imposed a ban on the use of bottom trawl in the sea along the entire coastline of the State within its territorial waters for a period of 45 days from 15th June, 1997 to 29th July, 1997.

The Government of India has also imposed a ban on the operation of all deep sea fishing vessels, including foreign deep sea fishing vessels operated on lease, in the Exclusive Economic Zone off the coast of Kerala for the period referred to above.

(b) Does not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

(c) Adequate steps have been taken by the Government of Kerala to prevent trawling by foreign vessels and vessels of other States within the territorial waters of Kerala coast. Further, all deep sea fishing vessels operating from Kochi Port were required to shift their base Port elsewhere during the period of the ban referred to in answer to (a) above.

[Translation]

Revival of HFCL and FCI

3146. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government contemplated to revive sick Fertilizer Corporation of India and Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far by the Government in this direction;

(c) whether the Chairman of Committee on Public Undertakings has written a letter to the Hon'ble Prime Minister in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) A letter dated 22.5.1997 has been received from the Chairman, Committee on Public Undertakings for expediting action on the revival plans for Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) in accordance with the decision taken by the Government in April 1995 and the recommendations of various Parliamentary Committees.

The revival packages for the functional units of HFC and FCI have been reformulated from the stand point of the financial institutions. The scope of the revamp is to

be determined on considerations of viability and tie up of the funding arrangements.

[English]

Irregularities in Nehru Memorial Museum

3147. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SC/ST Commission has received any representation regarding irregularities in the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a representation of Senior Technical Assistant of Nehru Memorial Museum & Library was received in the National Commission for SCs/STs regarding chargesheet issued to him on his misbehaviour and stopping his promotion. The representation is being examined by the Department of Culture. The Senior Technical Assistant has not been deprived of his promotion.

[Translation]

Relaxations to Handicapped Persons

3148. SHRI VISHVESHVAR BHAGAT :
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
DR. ARVIND SHARMA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of handicapped persons in the country State-wise;

(b) whether some relaxations in the qualifications have been provided to the handicapped persons in the country and the criteria fixed for Central and the State Governments services;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have considered or proposed to consider to provide pension/assistance to the totally disabled persons; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) As per the latest Sample Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in 1991, about 16.15 million persons in the country are suffering from visual, hearing, speech and locomotor

disabilities. Another Sample Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in 1991 for persons with Delayed Mental Development between 1-14 age group estimates that about 3% of the total population has delayed mental development.

(b) and (c) There is no relaxation in educational qualifications for physically handicapped for appointment in Services under the Central and State Government as per the available information.

(d) and (e) The Central Government has no proposal to launch a pension scheme for the disabled at present. A large number of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have their own pension schemes for the disabled.

Assistance being given to the disabled persons under various schemes is indicated in the Statement attached.

Statement

(1) Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the Disabled

Under this scheme, assistance is provided to voluntary organisations to run rehabilitation programmes for the disabled. Financial support is given upto 90% of the total project cost for recurring items like staff salary, maintenance charges, contingencies and non-recurring items like construction of building, equipment, furniture. Financial assistance is given for projects like vocational training centre, special schools, counselling centres, hostels, training centres for personnels, placement services etc.

(2) Establishment & Development of Special Schools

The scheme envisages assistance to the NGOs upto 90% for establishment and upgradation of Special Schools in four major disabilities— orthopaedic, hearing and speech, visual and mentally retarded. Priority under the scheme is given to setting up of schools in districts where there are no special schools at present. Both recurring and non-recurring expenditure is supported by the Ministry.

(3) Assistance to Organisations for persons with Cerebral Palsy & Mental Retardation for Manpower Development

Under the scheme, assistance is given to NGOs upto the extent of 100% for running training courses for researchers in the area of Cerebral Palsy & Mental Retardation.