

and the management expressed their inability to compensate for the loss;

(f) if so, the extent to which the demands of the chilly growers were accepted;

(g) whether the Government propose to help them to get the compensation from the management of the cold storage for the loss suffered by the chilly growers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The Union Agriculture Minister has not visited Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh in May, 1997.

(b) to (h) Question does not arise in view of the above.

#### Urea Scam

1111. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :  
DR. M. JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal for out-of-court settlement from Karsan, the Turkish firm involved in fertilizer supply scam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Welfare of Minorities

1112. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have implemented any welfare scheme for the welfare of minorities in Western Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount spent on this scheme during 1996-97 and the amount sanctioned for the year 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) The Government of India is implementing following schemes for the welfare of minorities all over the country including State of Rajasthan:—

(i) Ministry of Welfare is implementing the scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for the target group consisting of minorities and Socially & Economically Backward Classes whose annual income is not more than Rs. 24,000/-. The scheme is implemented for preparing the candidates belonging to target group to compete effectively with others in the examinations leading to recruitment and admission in professional courses.

(ii) Ministry of Human Resource Development has been implementing two schemes, namely, Area Intensive Programme and Modernisation of Madarsa education for the educational development of minorities. Under the scheme of Area Intensive Programme, assistance is provided to State Govts. and voluntary organisations for establishment of primary/upper primary schools, strengthening of educational infrastructure of such schools and opening of multi-stream residential higher secondary schools. Under the scheme of Modernisation of Madarsa education, cent per cent assistance is provided to such institutions for appointment of teachers for teaching modern subjects.

(c) The amount spent under these schemes during 1996-97 and 1997-98 in the State of Rajasthan is as under:

Name of Scheme	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)	
	1996-97	1997-98
(i) Pre-examination coaching scheme for weaker sections based on economic criteria	Nil	Nil
(ii) Area Intensive Programme for educationally backward minorities	112.305	55.60 (upto June, 97)
(iii) Modernisation of Madarsa Education	11.26	Nil

#### Smuggling by Police Officers

1113. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Suspended cop sees Senior Role in Smuggling" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated June 25, 1997;

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

(c) whether the Government have conducted or propose to conduct an enquiry into the allegations made in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) An inquiry conducted into the matter by Delhi Police revealed that the Constable concerned had been placed under suspension on the grounds of misbehaviour and not complying with lawful orders of his superiors. The allegation made by him that senior police officers were involved in smuggling activities at the Airport was also found to be false as he failed to appear before the inquiry despite six summons having been issued to him.

#### **Method for Assessment of Tiger Population**

1114. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the method adopted by the Government to assess the tiger population is faulty and incorrect; and

(b) if so, the new method proposed for a correct assessment?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) No Sir. The pug mark technique adopted by different States is scientifically accepted, which is easy to implement in the field. However due to variation in soil types and moisture content of soil, the authenticity of pug mark method of enumeration have been questioned. New methods have been developed in different parts. The Ministry of Environment and Forests constituted a Committee of experts to suggest improvement in the methodology of enumeration. The recommendation of the Committee may be seen in the attached statement which have been circulated to all tiger states for implementation.

#### **Statement**

##### *Recommendations for an Alternative Approach to the Estimation of Tiger and Prey Populations*

Research on population estimation techniques applicable to large mammals have now conclusively established the fact that approaches based on the concept of 'sampling' are more rigorous, reliable, replicable, and cost efficient compared to the earlier approaches based on total counts. Additionally sampling based approaches also permit the use of theoretically well established estimators/models such as line transects, point transects, and capture-recapture etc. Further, the availability of powerful new computer applications has brought these complex analyses within reach of any computer literate person. We are, therefore, recommending that the total count based "census" of tigers and prey species being carried out now should be modified, and supplemented by the following population assessment and estimation methodologies:

1. Mapping tiger distribution: This should be done once a year, during the season appropriate for that region. This should be done by the existing staff of the forest department. The aim is to specifically (and only) record tracks seen and their location on a map at 1 : 50000 scale. There is no need for using glass tracers etc., if reasonable integrity of data collection can be assured. If signs of cubs (reproducing populations) are seen this should be additionally noted and recorded. The park authorities should not be asked to come up with exact numbers of either tigers or prey.

2. In designated project tiger areas (to be expanded to other areas later) continuous monitoring and recording the presence/absence of tigers, with a special emphasis on the presence of cubs.

3. Sampling based, site specific population estimation plan : Each important reserve/region should aim to have access to trained teams of staff, scientists, NGO volunteers, to carry out population estimation using sampling based method relevant for regular use in future (depending on local conditions and availability of skilled personnel resources).

#### *For Tigers*

3.1 Encounter rate index based on number of pug marks, scrapes and scats encountered per unit distance walked along predetermined sampling routes which will be replicated annually. This will generate a quantitative, objective index with a mean and variance.