

amended in 1989 restricting its scope.

(c) and (d) A Working Group has been set up by the Government to examine the possibility of introducing a legislation on Right to Information at the levels of Central and State Government as well as consideration of amendment to various relevant legislations including the Official Secrets Act.

(e) and (f) In the Supreme Court a writ petition has been filed by one Dr. George Mathew challenging among other things Section 5 of the Official Secrets Act. The writ petition is pending in the Supreme Court.

Illegal Mining of Limestone

603. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court had imposed a ban on the illegal mining of limestone in the foothills of Mussoorie;

(b) if so, whether illegal mining of limestone in the foothills of Mussoorie along the Sone river is still continuing unabatedly; and

(c) if so, the action the Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

PDS Quota to Uttar Pradesh

604. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether wheat, rice, sugar, edible oil and kerosene, are not being supplied in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh as per the demand;

(b) if so, the reasons for not meeting the demand of these areas;

(c) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh have requested to increase the quota of these items; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The allocation of Public Distribution System

(PDS) items are made for the State as a whole and distribution amongst various regions/districts, including rural areas, is done by the State Government itself and the Central Government have no role to play in it.

(c) and (d) The Government of Uttar Pradesh have not demanded any increase in the monthly PDS quota of rice and edible oil (imported palmolein). Demand for fixation of monthly wheat quota at 1,09,205 MT as against 1,03,800 MT allotted for March, 1997 has been received. The allocation of foodgrains are made on month to month basis taking into consideration *inter alia* the demand received from various states/UTs, their relative needs, offtake trend, stock position in the Central Pool, seasonal availability etc.

Request received from Government of Uttar Pradesh for increase in the monthly levy sugar quota of the State could not be acceded to, despite improvement in the level of production during 1994-95 and 1995-96 sugar seasons, because availability of levy sugar in the country has yet to attain stability.

Requests were received from State of Uttar Pradesh for additional allocation of Kerosene. However, on account of constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy involved, it is not possible to meet the demand in full. Nevertheless, a 3% increase was given in the allocation for the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 over the previous years for the country as a whole. The allocation to the State of Uttar Pradesh for 1997-98 has been increased by 50,015 MTs over the last year representing a 4.4% increase over 1996-97.

[English]

Illicit Liquor Trade

605. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Wining and Dining under Watchful Eyes of Police" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated December, 12, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in regard to the involvement of the police personnel in this thriving illegal liquor trade ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The Government have seen the news item in question which appeared in the "Hindustan Times" in its issue of December 26, 1996. It has been alleged in the report that the illicit trade in liquor is being carried out at some places in Delhi (Majnu ka tila and Yamuna Pusta) with the