

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

connivance of police personnel.

(c) The Delhi Police conduct raids as and when reports of illicit trade in liquor are received. During the years 1996 and 1997 (upto 31st January, 1997), 43 cases were registered and 44 persons were arrested from Majnu Ka tila. Similarly, 58 cases were registered and 60 persons were arrested from Yamuna Pusta during the same period. If any police official is found to be involved in such illicit trade, appropriate action against him is taken. During 1996, departmental inquiry was initiated against three police personnel alleged to be involved in such illicit trade.

Observation Homes

606. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a number of inmates of the two observation Homes in Delhi escaped recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of the inmates escaped from the observation homes in 1995 and 1996;
- (d) whether any inquiry into the circumstances leading to their fleeing from the homes has been conducted by the Government
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (f) the action taken by the Government in the matter ?

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

(b) (i) On 6.1.97, 19 inmates escaped from Observation Home for Boys-I, Delhi Gate, out of these, 11 were brought back into the Home.

(ii) On 26.1.97, 88 inmates escaped from Observation Home for Boys-II, Magazine Road, out of these 54 inmates have been brought back into the Home.

(c)	1995	1996
DHB-I	4	24
DHB-II	100	5

(d) Magistral inquiry was ordered by the Govt. of Delhi in the 1st case and a Departmental inquiry was ordered in the 11nd case.

(e) In both the cases of escape in the year 1997 the inquiries revealed a prima-facie negligence on the part

of the security staff. The reports have suggested various measures to upgrade security in these Homes.

(f) One official from observation Home for Boys-I Delhi Gate and 5 officials from Observation Home for Boys-II, Magazine Road were placed under suspension. Various steps have been taken to upgrade the security in these Institutions.

Pollution in Cities

607. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) the precise permissible limits of various air pollutants such as carbon monoxide, suspended particulate matters, particulate lead, sulphuric acid etc. in metropolitan cities of the country;
- (b) the extent to which these pollutants exceed the permissible limits,
- (c) the precise permissible limit of the noise pollution in these cities and the extent to which it exceeds the permissible limits;
- (d) the extent to which the climate change is responsible for causing the cardiac disorder;
- (e) the extent to which the recommendation made in the Agenda 21 at Rio Summit have so far been implemented in the country in this regard;
- (f) the ill effects of exceeding limits of the pollutants and noise pollution on human health; and
- (g) the details of cooperation sought/received from the foreign/international agency to deal with the problem ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) The National Ambient Air Quality Standards for various air pollutants such as carbon monoxide, suspended particulate matter, particulate lead etc. is given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) Monitoring of air quality levels in ten metropolitan cities indicate that the levels of suspended particulate matter (SPM) encountered in Delhi, Calcutta and Mumbai exceed the prescribed limit but the levels of sulphur-dioxide and oxides of nitrogen are within the permissible limits.

(c) The ambient quality standards in respect of noise level is given in Statement-II. The noise pollution studies