

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Himachal Pradesh	-	1	4	
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	-	-	
16.	Karnataka	9	2	-	
17.	Kerala	40	-	10	
18.	Lakshadweep (UT)	-	-	-	
19.	Madhya Pradesh	14	-	-	
20.	Maharashtra	37	35	132	18
21.	Manipur	6	13	7	
22.	Mizoram	-	-	-	
23.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	
24.	Nagaland	-	1	2	
25.	Orissa	-	1	16	
26.	Pondicherry (UT)	6	-	40	
27.	Rajasthan	-	-	-	
28.	Sikkim	-	-	-	
29.	Tamil Nadu	10	23	60	40
30.	Tripura	-	-	-	
31.	Uttar Pradesh	6	-	4	
32.	West Bengal	12	2	13	
Total		210	91	347	65

[English]

Freedom Fighter Pension

4. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute an Advisory Committee to finalise the pending cases of freedom fighters for pension in the light of Supreme Court decision in CWP 153 of 1992;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Receipt and disposal of claims for grant of freedom fighters pension is a continuous process. The claims are examined in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and decisions are taken immediately after scrutinising and verifying the genuineness of the documents submitted by the applicants in support of their claims. In view of this, Government does not consider it necessary to constitute an Advisory Committee.

[Translation]

Addiction to Smoking

5. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a steep rise in the cases of addiction to smoking among the people of the country during the last few years;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any survey to find out the reasons therefor;

(c) whether in view of the adverse affect of smoking on common man at public places and co-passengers in trains and buses, the Government propose to bring any stringent legislation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and other measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) The Indian Council for Medical Research have concluded on the basis of available information that there has been an increase in smoking over the last 8-10 years.

(b) No large scale survey has been conducted on tobacco use as the outcome can be gauged from available data.

(c) and (d). There is a proposal to bring a comprehensive legislation to discourage the use of tobacco and tobacco products including ban on use/ consumption of tobacco in public places, inter alia providing for a ban on tobacco advertisements. Mean-while, the Government has initiated several measures like building awareness on the ill-effects of tobacco, prohibition of smoking in public places besides imposing a statutory warning on cigarette packs that "Smoking is injurious to Health".

Night Post Office

6. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices functioning at night in Delhi as on date;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more of these post offices in Delhi; and

(c) if so, the locations identified so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There are 13 Night Post Offices functioning in Delhi, at present.

(b) There is no such proposal.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

[English]

Dairy Potential

7. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to tap the immense dairy potential of the country; and

(b) when the country shall become number one dairying nation of the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Besides programmes run by the State Government, the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme for non-operation flood, hilly and backward area is being implemented during the 8th Plan period with 100 percent central assistance. There are also other Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by the Government to enhance milk production, such as schemes for animal disease control, fodder development and production of breeding bulls and semen.

(b) India is the second largest milk producer in the world after the USA, and if existing rates growth in production continue at the same level in both countries, India may emerge as the number one dairying nation by the turn of the century.

Normalcy in J and K

8. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to restore peace and normalcy in J and K;

(b) if so, the details thereof and various steps taken in this direction; and

(c) the decision taken with regard to the election for the J and K Assembly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c). The aim of the Government is to ensure that complete peace, normalcy and the democratic and representative institutions are restored in the State of Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest. The Government has been keeping a close watch on the situation, and a number of steps and initiatives have been taken to create conditions conducive to this objective. These include: sustained and targetted operations to contain the activities of the militants and reduce the fear of the gun; stepping up the pace of development and economic activities in the State to create additional employment opportunities for the youth and motivating the people to move towards their normal life and activities; reactivation of the civil administration and restoring its morale for normal activities; efforts to strengthen the confidence of the people in and enlisting their cooperation with the administration; reactivation of the political elements and forces in the State; and, encouragement to the people to strengthen the peace process through other confidence building measures, including increased transparency, release of detainees, etc. Special efforts have also been made to encourage the misguided youth who taken to the gun to come into the mainstream, including announcement of a policy for surrender of militants and dialogue, etc.

Government has also been holding consultations with leaders of the various political parties and groups in the State with the aim of encouraging them to activate the political process and isolate the elements favouring violence.

The various measures taken by the Government have resulted in perceptible and significant improvement in the situation and the overall atmosphere, and in a visible change in the mood of the people.