

*[Translation]***Support Prices**

4732. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :  
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to make any changes in the support prices of various crops during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the extent to which the support prices are likely to be increased over 1996-97, crop-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :

(a) and (b) The Minimum Support Prices already announced for Rabi Crops and Copra for the marketing year 1997-98 are as under:

Crop	(Rs. per quintal)	
	Minimum Support Price for 1997-98 marketing season	Increase Over 1996-97
Wheat	475*	95
Barley	305	10
Gram	740	40
Repeseed/Mustard	890	30
Safflower	830	30
Toria	855	30
Copra Milling	2700	200
Ball	2925	200

Inclusive of Central bonus @ 60 per quintal announced recently by the Government.

The Minimum Support Prices in respect of Kharif Crops and Jute for 1997-98 season are at present under consideration of the Government.

*[English]***Increase in Custodial Deaths**

4733. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :  
SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Steady Increase in Custody Deaths Reported, and Man Dies in Police Station" appearing in the 'Statesman', dated April 25, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the custodial deaths in the capital are rapidly increasing;

(c) if so, the total number of custodial deaths reported in the capital during the last three years and as on April 1, 1997; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government against the officials involved therein and to minimise the custodial deaths?

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

(b) to (d) The requisite information is given in the attached statement.

**Statement**

*Number of Custodial Deaths reported in Delhi during the Years 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997 (upto 1.4.97) and Action take against police personnel thereon.*

Year	No. of Custodial Death Reported	Criminal Cases Registered	No. of Police Personnel against whom criminal case Registered	No. of Police Personnel against whom departmental action taken
1994	2	2	12	15
1995	3	2	11	1
1996	3	2	8	14
1997 (upto 1.4.97)	-	-	-	-

The steps taken by Delhi Police to prevent incidents of custodial deaths are as follows:

(i) A person arrested and kept in custody by the Police is offered an opportunity to inform a friend, relative or any other person who is known to him or likely to take an interest in his welfare.

(ii) Selected Senior Police Officers make surprise visits to police stations, police posts, assistance booths, check posts etc. to check violations of human rights, misbehaviour with women, treatment meted out to the persons seeking police assistance, etc.

(iii) A Central Checking Team conducts periodic checking of police stations and other police establishments in order to prevent illegal detention, illegal use of handcuffs, non-registration and minimization of offences etc.

(iv) Senior Police officers of the rank of DCPs and ACPs visit police stations regularly for attending to and removing the grievances of public on the spot.

(v) In all police stations a separate area has been earmarked. It has been named 'Sankraman Kaksha'. It has been located in the vicinity of Reporting Room and SHOs Room. Investigating Officers have directions to examine suspects and witnesses in 'Sankraman Kaksha' only. No member of the public is allowed to go, or be taken, to any other room of the police station for questioning.

(vi) The Investigating Officers are being briefed by their Senior Officers to desist from use of 3rd degree methods.

(vii) Instructions have been issued to all the concerned not to keep drunkards, drug addicts and injured persons at police stations. The police has directions to take them to Hospital, etc.

#### Orange Cultivation

4734. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to promote orange cultivation in the country;

(b) whether any extension centres have been established to assist the farmers to grow oranges; and

(c) if so, the places where these centres have been set up?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) During 8th Plan, Government of India has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Integrated Development of Fruits' under which assistance is being provided for establishment of nurseries for producing quality planting material, area expansion, improving productivity, demonstration, and training of farmers, to promote cultivation of fruits which also includes oranges. In addition, assistance is being provided for installation of drip irrigation system and mulching etc. under the scheme 'plastic in Agriculture'.

(b) and (c) Extension Services are being provided by the State Department of Horticulture/Agriculture. Besides, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is also providing technical know-how through its Centres viz. National Research Centre on citrus at Nagpur

(Maharashtra), Tinsukia (Assam Chethalli (Karnataka), Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) & Bhatinda (Punjab).

[Translation]

#### Funds for Agriculture Development

4735. SHRI SUKHLAL KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Central Assistance allocated/ released to each State for the development of agriculture during the year, 1997-98 as compared to the year 1996-97;

(b) whether this amount is higher than that of the last year; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) An amount of Rs. 555 crore was released to the States by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation for development of agriculture during the year 1996-97 till December, 1996. State wise details are given in the statement attached.

During 1997-98, funds would be released to States under various Central/Centrally Sponsored Scheme based on the proposals received from the State Government, total allocation in the budget of the Department and the amount remaining unutilised in a particular State out of earlier releases made.

#### Statement

*Funds Released for the Development of Agriculture during the year 1996-97*

		(Rs. in crores)
S.No.	Name of State	Amount Released during 1996-97 (upto Dec. 1996)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57.29
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.79
3.	Assam	1.76
4.	Bihar	4.15
5.	Goa	1.30
6.	Gujarat	23.93
7.	Haryana	13.61