

**Land Allotment**

4749. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government as a measure of special dispensation has been allotting land particularly in cantonment areas of the country without taking any recourse to the environmental protection;

(b) if so, whether violation of environmental rules by defence cantonments pertaining to their land allotment has been investigated;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) No special dispensation has been made under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land in cantonment areas.

(b) No violation of environmental rules by the defence cantonments has come to the notice of the Ministry, and as such question of investigation regarding land allotment does not arise.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

**Compensation to Cyclone Victims**

4750. SHRI S. RAMCHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fishermen of Andhra Pradesh have sought immediate compensation for those who lost lives in Cyclone in November, 1996; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government on their request/demand?

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) Yes, Sir. There is a demand for payment of exgratia relief to the families to those fishermen who are still reported to be missing.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have already paid exgratia assistance at the rate of Rs. 1.00 lakh per person to the families of 192 fishermen who died in the cyclone of November, 1996. Out of the remaining cases, the State Government have now decided to treat 1279 missing fishermen as dead and give financial assistance at the above rates to their families.

**Development of Venilla Crop**

4751. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sent any scheme for the development of Venilla crop in the State;

(b) if so, the details and estimated cost thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government had sanctioned the amount sought for under the scheme; and

(d) the places where the development work of Venilla crop is likely to be taken up in the State?

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 proposal for the Pilot Scheme for Development of Venilla in an area of 300 acres with financial outlay of Rs. 242.40 lakh for five year was sent by Government of Karnataka in February 1996.

(c) and (d) The scheme could not be sanctioned as Planning Commission was not considering new proposals in the last year of the VIII Plan. Government of Karnataka, however, proposes to implement the scheme in Dakshan Kannada, Uttara Kannada and Shimoga districts as a State sector scheme during 1997-98.

[Translation]

**Nuclear Funds for Tribal Projects**

4752. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the provision for spending Central nuclear funds in the tribal development projects;

(b) the items of work on which this fund can be spent;

(c) whether recommendation of the local Member of Parliament is sought for spending this fund; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) This Ministry does not operate funds called "Central Nuclear Funds". However, Special Central Assistance is given to 20 Tribal Sub-Plan States/UTs for socio-economic development of tribals and for their protection from exploitation. Earlier, a certain amount of fund was not spent as additional Special Central Assistance to meet such costs of Specific Schemes for development of tribals as may be taken up by the States/UTs. The Scheme of Additional Special Central Assistance

has since been discontinued w.e.f 1996-97. Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution are given to the States/UTs to meet the cost of such schemes of development of Tribals and raising the level of administration of Scheduled Areas therein to that of the Administration of the rest of the areas in the State.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The guidelines have no such provisions.

[English]

### Rice and Wheat Lying in Open

4753. SHRI BHAKTACHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge quantity of rice and wheat lying in the open is rotting in the FCI godowns;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the factors responsible therefor;

(c) the amount of loss incurred and likely to be incurred due to the said situation; and

(d) the steps being taken to avoid such situation?

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) Rice stocks are not stored in open. Only wheat and paddy are stored in open (cover and plinth) on scientific lines as a temporary measure due to paucity of covered accommodation and to accommodate incoming levy/custom milled rice stocks in the covered godowns. Since wheat and paddy stocks are stored in open with proper care, there is no chance of rotting of the same.

However, due to natural calamities like unprecedented rains, cyclones, floods, high velocity wind followed by rains, etc., some stocks get drenched which are salvaged and the segregated stocks found unfit for human consumption are declared as damaged foodgrains and sold as such to the State Government (Animal Husbandry Deptts.) and in case no time bound response is received from them, such damaged stocks are sold to registered and State Government licensed firms who have the facilities to use the same for direct consumption of animals or to manufacture cattle or poultry feeds or as Industrial (starch) products or manure use.

The percentage of such damages (both in CAP and covered storage complex) for the last three years with

reference to average total foodgrains held during each year is given below:

Year	Total Foodgrain Stocks (as on 1st April)	(in lakh MT)	
		Damaged Foodgrains	Percentage
1993-94	187.19	0.46	0.25
1994-95	207.50	0.19	0.09
1995-96	144.86	0.33	0.23

(d) The stocks of foodgrains with FCI are stored in scientifically designed godown or CAP storages. To meet the urgent requirements of storage accommodation wheat and paddy are stored under CAP with proper precaution to avoid any damages. In order to ensure proper storage and preservation of stocks, the FCI undertakes construction of godowns at appropriate places to reduce its dependence on temporary CAP storages.

[Translations]

### Wheat Procurement

4754. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :  
SHRI I.D. SWAMI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the procurement season has been advanced from 1st April to 17th March, 1997;

(b) if so, its benefit in the matter of procurement of wheat so far;

(c) the total estimated quantity of wheat procured so far and its comparison with preceding three years;

(d) whether the Government are aware that in the surplus States of Haryana and Punjab, the farmers are not selling their stocks to the Government;

(e) whether the Government are considering to raise the support price as requested for by the Chief Ministers of Haryana and Punjab in view of the cost of the imported wheat higher than the demanded price of Rs. 550;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) 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) Yes, Sir.