

1	2	3
344.	Kedarnath	Shrinagar (Garhwal)
345.	Gangotri	-do-
346.	Ranichatti	-do-
347.	Yamnotri	-do-

[English]

Food Corporation of India

1008. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has sought the Government's permission to enter in the global market for the export of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) to (c). The Government had authorised the FCI to export/sell for the purpose of export the following quantities of foodgrains :-

	(In lakh tonnes)
	1995-96
Fine and superfine rice	30
Non-durum wheat	25

Against the aforesaid authorisation FCI did not export wheat or rice directly during 1995-96 but had sold about 16 lakh tonnes of fine and superfine rice and 0.84 lakh tonnes of non-durum wheat for export during 1995-96.

In February, 1996 FCI had requested Government to take a decision on FCI exporting rice after upgrading the existing stocks to bring to the exportable quality instead of inviting applications with earnest money deposits for one million tonnes of rice. Direct export of rice by FCI did not materialise as a very little time was left for the close of the financial year 1995-96.

National Social Assistance Programme

1009. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are considering to review the National Social Assistance programme to make it more effective for the upliftment of weaker sections;

(b) if so, whether an Expert Committee was set up for this purpose during the last year;

(c) if so, the salient features of the report submitted by the Committee; and

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

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

(b) No Expert Committee has been constituted for this purpose. However, the review is proposed to be taken up through a Concurrent Evaluation Study on the NSAP, involving Government Agencies and Independent Institutions.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) As a preparatory exercise for taking-up the main Concurrent Evaluation Study, the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment has taken up a Quick Evaluation of the States' Social Security Schemes in the selected Districts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

[Translation]

Population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

1010. DR SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the total population of the country as per 1991 census and the population and percentage of Scheduled Castes and scheduled tribes out of it; and

(b) the steps taken to implement the reservation policy in political, social and educational fields as well as Government services in proportion to the present population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the provisions of the Constitution and Orders?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Total population of India (excluding J&K) is 83,85,83,988. Population of Scheduled Castes is 13,82,23,277 (16.48%).

Population of Scheduled Tribes is 6,77,58,380 (8.08%).

(b) Reservation policy for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is being implemented in Political, Social and Educational Fields, for ensuring their adequate representation according to various provisions of the Constitution and Orders of the Government. As regards providing reservation to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in proportion to their population, no proposal is under consideration of the Government in the light of the Supreme Court Judgement that the overall reservation in any particular year should not exceed 50% of vacancies. Current reservation of the SCs, STs and Other Backward Classes is 49.5%.