

(c) The total production of cotton in the State during the said period is as under:-

Year	Total Production in lakh bales (each bale is 170 Kgs)
1994-95	22.69
1995-96	22.02
1996-97	30.00 (likely)

(d) To increase productivity and production of cotton in the State, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Intensive Cotton Development Programme" has been implemented.

The assistance provided by the Govt. of India to the State under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Intensive Cotton Development Programme" from 1994-95 to 1996-97 is as under:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1994-95	11.65
1995-96	59.50
1996-97	53.00

[English]

Procurement and Import of Sugar

4804. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar procured during the current season under the levy system for distribution through the Public Distribution System;

(b) the steps taken to ensure the availability of sugar for the PDS from indigenous production; and

(c) the reasons for importing sugar by the STC and MMTC despite optimistic domestic production estimates?

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) Under the policy of partial control, 40% of the sugar produced by the sugar factories except from the sugar factories under incentive scheme is required to be given as levy for distribution through the Public Distribution System (PDS). During the current 1996-97 sugar season 36,47,924.5 M.Ts has been released for distribution through the PDS upto June, 1997. The Government would ensure the availability of sugar for distribution through PDS.

(c) No sugar has been imported by the STC/MMTC during the current season.

Street Children

4805. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the American human rights body has exposed the brutality of police on the street children titled Police abuse and killing of street children in India in its Human Rights watch;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The Human Rights Watch/Asia brought out a report titled: "Police Abuse and Killing of Street Children in India". The report mainly focuses on alleged police abuse, torture and extortion, including illegal detention in respect of street children and the loopholes in the laws in this context. Quoting the 1991 census, the report states there are around 18 million children, living or working on the streets of urban India. It is alleged that the police illegally detains, beats and extorts money from the children, without the fear of scrutiny by the judiciary. It has also, *inter alia*, referred to the conditions and functioning of observation, Remand and juvenile Homes and about inadequacies in the implementation of the Provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, by the enforcement authorities, as also in the substantive provisions of the Act. The report also mentions the steps taken by the Government in respect of police training and sensitisation with reference to the problems faced by the street children.

2. The Government is committed to better quality of life and protection of human rights for all, specially for the weaker and vulnerable sections of the society. For this, the Government has already brought in a number of institutional and legislative reforms. There is a continuous process of revision in the existing institutional and legislative framework. It is considering amendments to various provisions in Cr.P.C. like section 53, 54, 176 and 197 in order to make them more human.

3. A number of innovative, non-institutional schemes have been developed for the benefit of street children. Financial grants are being sanctioned to support and strengthen voluntary organisations engaged in the welfare and development of these children, in order to provide integrated and community based services to them. Stress is given to making available basic health service, providing nutritional support, offering facilities for literacy, integration of street children with their families or their placement in a family setting and protecting these children against all forms of abuse and exploitation.

4. As regards allegations contained in the report, most of them are baseless, frivolous and general in nature. It would appear that the organisation has little or scanty knowledge of the Indian Legal System. To counter a few, that India has about 18 million children working on streets, is a highly exaggerated statement. The figures of 18 million quoted in the report acutally correspond to the number of children in the age group of 16-18 years, living below the poverty line. To assume that all of them would fall in the category of street children, would not be justified at all. The observation that street children are detained, beaten and tortured is a very general and sweeping statement. Invariably, whenever such crimes are reported, and *prima facie* charges are established, case is investigated and delinquent officials are prosecuted in accordance with law.

5. A consolidated response to this report was sent to Ministry of External Affairs for briefing Missions abroad in order to neutralise the effects of this report.

Pension for Freedom Fighters

4806. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to ensure proper utilization of pension for the freedom fighters;

(b) whether the fraudulent cases of claiming pension for freedom fighters have come to the notice of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) The Central Government sanctions freedom fighters pension in a case on the basis of the information/documents produced by the applicant and the recommendation made by the State Governments. It is made clear in the sanction letter that pension is subject to review and can be cancelled/modified, without any further notice, if it is established that the same was obtained on mistaken grounds or false information. Complaints received are enquired into through the concerned State Governments and their agencies, as also through the Central investigating agencies, wherever considered necessary. So far pension has been suspended in 2886 cases and cancelled in 1316 cases. A statement indicating the position, State-wise, is enclosed.

Scrutiny of claims for pension has been made more stringent with a view to ensuring that no person, who is not entitled to pension, is sanctioned pension.

Freedom fighters can draw pension only against a sanction order and pension payment order issued by the Central Government. The pension disbursing authorities

possess identification documents of pensioners, such as passport size photographs, specimen signatures, fingerprints, etc. for identification so as to ensure that pension is received by genuine pensioners only.

Statement

The cases where freedom fighter pension has been suspended or cancelled.

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Number of cases	
		Suspended	Cancelled
1.	Andhra Pradesh	101	4
2.	Bihar	624	180
3.	Goa	9	9
4.	Haryana	15	22
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0	2
6.	Karnataka	570	261
7.	Kerala	720	61
8.	Madhya Pradesh	55	61
9.	Maharashtra	227	36
10.	Meghalaya	7	13
11.	Orissa	12	85
12.	Punjab	101	26
13.	Tamil Nadu	15	81
14.	Uttar Pradesh	228	222
15.	West Bengal	191	214
16.	Delhi	2	26
17.	Pondicherry	9	13
Total		2886	1316

[Translation]

Memorial in Memory of Freedom Fighters

4807. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to set up a memorial in the historical military camps of the freedom fighters of Azad Hind Fauj in Myanmar (Burma);