

*[Translation]***Smuggling of Cattle**

5877. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a steep decline in the number of livestock in South Bihar due to smuggling of cattle to Bangladesh through West Bengal;

(b) if so, the number of cattle smugglers arrested and the action taken against them;

(c) whether the Government propose to constitute a task force to check the smuggling of cattle;

(d) if so, the time by which the task force is likely to be constituted; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) While it is not possible to say whether there has been a decline in the number of livestock in South Bihar, the numbers of cattle heads seized by the Border Security Force on the Indo-Bangladesh border during the last three years show a declining trend in the smuggling of cattle.

The number of smugglers including cattle smugglers apprehended by the Border Security Force during last three years is as follows:-

| | | |
|-------------------|---|------|
| 1995 | - | 5705 |
| 1996 | - | 4933 |
| 1997 (upto 7 May) | - | 2526 |

The smugglers apprehended by the security forces on the border are handed over to the customs authorities and the State Police for appropriate action.

(c) to (e) The Government of Bihar is reportedly considering a proposal to constitute a task force to check the smuggling of cattle. The Central Government on its part has taken a series of measures to check the illegal activities on the border. These include: strengthening of the Border Security Force to reduce the gaps between border outposts; intensified patrolling; erection of observation post towers along international border and supply of night vision devices, binoculars etc. for better observation and patrolling in both land and riverine areas of border.

*[English]***Subsidy to Farmers**

5878. SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has urged the Union Government to restore the procedure of direct subsidy to the farmers; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

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) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to subsidy/concession on fertilizers. No such request has been received from the Government of Maharashtra.

(b) Does not arise.

Sugar Production

5879. SHRI GULAM MOHD. MIR MAGANI :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:
SHRI SURENDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of sugar during 1996-97 season has come down;

(b) if so, the requirement and the estimated production of sugar during the season along with the reasons for this fall;

(c) the total sugar exported during 1996-97;

(d) the extent to which the export of sugar is likely to be reduced due to decline in the sugar production; and

(e) the steps being taken to meet the domestic demand of sugar for 1997?

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 production of sugar during the current 1996-97 sugar season (October, 1996 - September, 1997) upto 31.3.1997 was 106.05 lakh tonnes as against 117.27 lakh tonnes on the corresponding date of the last season. This fall is primarily because of late start of crushing during the current season & on account of prolonged crushing during last season. During the current 1996-97 season both, production and internal requirement are expected to be of the order of about 140 lakh tonnes.

(c) As per available information, a quantity of about 4.08 lakh tonnes (provisional) has been exported upto 30th April, 1997 during the current 1996-97 sugar season.

(d) The export of sugar will depend upon the surplus availability of freesale sugar, requirement for internal consumption, production, etc.

(e) With the carry over stocks at the beginning of the season and the expected production during the current 1996-97 season, there would be sufficient availability of sugar to meet the internal requirement of the country.

National Lake Conservation Scheme

5880. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of lakes in the country included in National Lake Conservation Scheme during the last three years;

(b) whether Sagar Lake of Madhya Pradesh is proposed to be included therein for implementation during the 9th Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) A proposal for 11 out of 21 identified urban lakes in the country was prepared under the National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) for taking up under Phase-I Sagar lake of Madhya Pradesh was included in the Phase-I of the proposal. Besides this 18 water bodies in the country have been identified by the Ministry for intensive conservation; under the scheme on conservation and management of Wetlands.

(c) and (d) The proposal on NLCP was submitted to the Planning Commission for implementation during the 9th Five Year Plan. The Planning Commission had desired that funding for NLCP may be sought from bilateral or multilateral agencies. Accordingly, a proposal on lakes from NLCP and other wetlands of international importance is under consideration for assistance from the World Bank.

Dialogue with Naga underground faction

5881. SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government agreed to hold dialogue with the Naga underground faction even if they come separately;

(b) if so, whether the Government have laid down any condition before the said Naga underground faction;

(c) if so, the extent by which the Naga underground faction has agreed for talk; and

(d) the time by which the talks are likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The Government have extended an open invitation to any group of individuals including militants to discuss their legitimate grievances, without any pre-condition.

(c) and (d) There has been only a preliminary contact with a Naga underground faction. No time period can be indicated for a formal commencement of the talks.

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance for Agriculture Development

5882. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial assistance has been received for the development of agricultural and research during the year 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 from the international financial institutes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount out of this assistance disbursed to each State during the said period; and

(d) the progress made in regard to improvement and development of agriculture sector in each State with such assistance during the said period?

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) State/Project-wise financial assistance received for development of agriculture and research from World Bank and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 is given in the enclosed statements-I and II respectively.

(d) Assistance from World Bank aimed at minimising the process of ecological degradation, enhancing the level of agriculture production and for creating basic infrastructure for multi-sectoral activities, keeping in view the overall agriculture strategies and priorities of the beneficiary States. The projects have impact in terms of increase in cropping intensity and productivity, augmentation of income generation from such activities as crop husbandry agroforestry, dry land horticulture, live-stock management, rural roads, drinking water, minor irrigation etc.

The assistance from IFAD has been given primarily for projects whose objective is to improve the standards of living of disadvantaged groups with higher incidence of poverty such as Tribal populations, women as well as for extremely underdeveloped areas like the Mewat region of Haryana. Project components include development of rural infrastructure, promotion of minor irrigation and water