

(b) It is presumed that ULFA has issued threats in order to pressurise the Government for the relaxation of operations by the Unified Headquarters against ULFA.

(c) and (d) ULFA has reportedly expressed willingness for talks provided (1) These are held in a third country (2) In the presence of a UN representative (3) Sovereignty of Assam is also discussed.

(e) and (f) The Government of India believes in solution of problems through talks and negotiations to bring about peace, stability and development. The Government of India is prepared for talks with any group which is willing to work within the framework of the Constitution of India and abjure violence. No talks have been initiated with the terrorist outfits operating in Assam, as they have not indicated their willingness for talks within the above parameter and are continuing with violence. The Government of India is against all manifestations of violence.

#### **Funds for Streamlined PDS**

5961. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide sufficient funds to the State Governments for the survey and identification of population living below the poverty line and issuing special ration cards to them to make the new proposed streamlined public distribution system scheme a success;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked for each state for the purpose; 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Public Distribution System is implemented under the joint responsibility of Central and State Governments. Responsibility for implementation of PDS including conduct of survey and issue of ration cards vests with State Governments/UT Administrations. However, under the Targeted PDS guidelines, the quinquennial surveys made by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment for implementation of IRDP, etc. on households living below Poverty Line can be taken as basis provided the overall number is limited within BPL population fixed by the Union Planning Commission adopting the methodology of the Expert Group headed by Late Prof. Lakdawala. Normally States renew ration cards once in five or six years. In case the States have issued ration cards recently and do not

want to issue fresh cards, a suitable endorsement can be made by an appropriate stamp in respect of the cards of population Below Poverty Line.

*[Translation]*

#### **Export of Seeds**

5962. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the achievements in agricultural production in India have been made due to the production of indigenous seeds;

(b) whether after attaining self sufficiency in production of seeds, there is no need to import the foreign seeds;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to export the indigenous seeds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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. Indigenous production of seeds has made a substantial contribution to achievements in agricultural production.

(b) Import of seeds may be necessary in the context of introduction of new, improved varieties in the country for the benefit of farmers. However, the seed Policy is designed to ensure that commercial multiplication of seeds of imported varieties of oilseeds, cereals and pulses is undertaken within the country.

(c) and (d) India has considerable potential for export of seeds owing to the availability of diverse agroclimatic conditions. Subject to domestic requirements of seeds being met, Government of India encourages the export of seeds.

*[English]*

#### **Subsidy on Fertilizers**

5963. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has recommended the restoration of the earlier practice of distributing fertilizer subsidy directly to the farmers; and

(b) if so, the response 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Flouring Contract by Super Bazar

5964. SHRI RAM BHADUR SINGH :  
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :  
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :  
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :  
SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA :  
SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV :  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Super Bazar in Delhi has been duped of lakhs of rupees by an Etawah based flour mills;

(b) whether the flour mill was awarded contract by the Super Bazar in violation of the contract norms and practice;

(c) if so, the amount of loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Government have made any inquiry into the deal; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof stating the action taken by the Government in the matter?

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.

(b) to (e) In view of the rising prices of wheat and atta in the open market during 1996-97, Government introduced a scheme in July, 1996 of releasing wheat from Food Corporation of India to Super Bazar, Kendriya Bhandar and National Co-operative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF), to sell the resultant atta at prices fixed by Government. According to Super Bazar, it was allotted 24700 tonnes of wheat upto March, 1997. Of the several Mills engaged for this purpose by the Super Bazar, M/s. Etawah Flour Mills, Etawah (U.P.) offered cheaper rate of conversion of wheat into atta. The Mill was allotted 2000 MT of wheat in March, 1997 by the Purchase Committee as per rules. The mill also deposited Rs. One Crore to FCI by Demand Draft and actually lifted 1149.5 tonnes of wheat.

M/s. Etawah Flour Mills delivered some quantity of atta, though belatedly, but the same was not accepted by Super Bazar due to poor quality.

A team of officials of Super Bazar had visited Etawah Flour Mills in the last week of April, 1997 to go into the details and reasons for non-delivery of Atta and wheat lifted by the mill.

A notice has been served on M/s. Etawah Flour Mills as to why the advance lying with FCI/Super Bazar should not be forfeited being the difference of amount between the FCI rates and market rates.

The Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies has been asked to conduct an Enquiry into the matter.

[Translation]

#### Pollution by Industrial Units

5965. SHRI PRATAP SINGH SAINI :  
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :  
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board have sent a team to M/s. Vam Organic Chemicals Ltd. and Shri Acid and Chemicals Ltd. located in Gajraula, Muradabad and analysed the samples of pollutions and effluents of these industrial units in laboratories;

(b) whether pollution was found beyond the fixed norms in test and analysis;

(c) if so, the points on which pollution was found; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the said industrial units?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A team of the Central Pollution Control Board visited M/s. Vam Organic Chemicals Limited and Shree Acids and Chemicals Limited located in Gajraula on 8th July, 1996 and 5th December, 1996. During these visits, samples were collected and analysed. The samples collected on 8th July, 1996 from M/s. Vam Organic Chemicals Limited were found complying with the prescribed standards, while the samples from M/s. Shree Acids and Chemicals Limited were not meeting the norms.

The samples of treated effluent of M/s. Vam Organic Chemicals Limited were again collected by a team of Central Pollution Control Board on 5-12-1996 and analysed. The analysis of these samples indicated that the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) level was found to be marginally higher than the prescribed standard.

(d) The steps taken to control pollution from the said industries include the following :

(i) The Central Pollution Control Board has set up two monitoring stations at Gajraula.