

language both internationally and at home.

**SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:** Is it developing computer language for Sanskrit?

**MR. SPEAKER:** She is very correct in her language. Do not confuse her.

**SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:** I am sorry. May-be, I have used a wrong....

**MR. SPEAKER:** No. You have used the correct language.

**SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:** We had a special presentation for Members of Parliament which the hon. Prime Minister had wanted. Many Members who are interested did come and see what is being done along this line. We are standardising the code under the Technology Development for Indian languages. It has now reached the final stage. We are hopeful that the development will lead to the acceptance of Sanskrit as a computer language in the not too distant future.

**SHRI BUTA SINGH:** Sir there is acute power shortage in our country especially in the rural areas. Fortunately, in fact some of our ancient literatures especially the sacred Vedas contain prescriptions for generation of electricity outside the hydro-electric and thermal systems. Fortunately, we have a Prime Minister who is a great authority on Vedas.

May I know from the hon. Prime Minister; has the Government made any effort to find out from the Vedas as to what are the alternative sources of energy?

Will the Energy Minister and the government make efforts to exploit those sources which are contained in the sacred Vedas?

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO):** When you read the ancient texts, what we can glean is the fact that those who wrote those texts or conceived those texts, had some kind of knowledge, prescience, call it what you will, they

had a knowledge of all these natural phenomena. That is a clear evidence you can find from the texts. The technology part of it, that we do not find in such abundance in the ancient texts except in case of medicine which started with the Atharva Veda and architecture of which we have abundant standing evidence in the country everywhere. We have the old excavations where you can find advanced facilities like underground drainage and other things existing even today. So, we have some monuments. But one has to go deeper into the texts to decipher them to find out, if a particular technique has been clearly stated there. You see mostly our scientists, our architects, went by trail and error. We know many of the other standing monuments, for instance. Some have stood for more than a thousand years. Some have caved in within 200 years. Why? Because they were trying to experiment with several things. Some succeeded. Some did not succeed. So, it is very difficult to go into all those things and find out which was the technology, which was the technique which succeeded, which did not succeed. But this requires a lot of effort. That effort is going on and Government are prepared to assist any one institution or individual who is willing to go into it because it is sometimes a life-long process and he may not really stumble into anything useful. This is a process which requires a long time.

I would like to say on behalf of the Government that we are prepared to help. We are as much intent on ferreting out the secrets from the old texts. Probably they will be useful for other countries also. Sometimes it happens that what we bring out is not found anywhere and there are some examples like that in astronomy and so on. I will not go into details but this is an activity which Government would like to encourage in all ways.

#### **Retail Outlets Under Public Distribution System**

184. **SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the target for 1991-92 for opening retail outlets under the Public Distribution System in rural and urban areas, State-wise;

(b) the average population to be served each outlet by March 31, 1992;

(c) the items to be marked through the Public Distribution System;

(d) the subsidy, if any, on these items; and

(e) the share of the rural population and market in these items to be served by the Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUD-DIN AHMED): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the house.

#### STATEMENT

(a) to (e). Various State Governments and U.T. Administrations were requested to indicate the targets set by them for opening of new Fair Price Shops in the country. The Statewise information of targets for 1991-92

is given in the *Annexure*. Besides, for the focus being given for improved reach of PDS commodities to certain identified areas, the State Governments intend to open about 11,000 additional shops therein.

Central Government has advised State Governments and U.T. Administrations to open Fair Price Shops in a manner such that on an average on shop should cater to about 2,000 people. Key essential commodities; viz. Rice, Wheat, Levy sugar, Kerosene, Imported Edible Oil and Soft Coke are distributed through PDS outlets. State Governments have been requested to add on their own additional commodities of mass consumption taking into account local needs.

The subsidies paid by the Central Government to Food Corporation of India on food items in 1990-91 is as follows:-

Foodgrains (Rice & wheat) = Rs.2142.4 crores

Levy Sugar = Rs. 307.6 crores

As in the beginning of the year 1991, about 75% Fair Price Shops were located in rural areas.

#### ANNEXURE

##### *Target for Opening of fair price shops by states/U.Ts.*

<i>S.No</i>	<i>State/U.T.</i>	<i>Annual Target (1991-92)</i>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	180
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	30
3.	Assam	220
4.	Bihar	126
5.	Goa	10
6.	Gujarat	682
7.	Haryana	Nil
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	50

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<b>S.No</b>	<b>State/U.T.</b>	<b>Annual Target (1991-92)</b>
10.	Karnataka	150
11.	Kerala	Nil
12.	Madhya Pradesh	300
13.	Maharashtra	Nil
14.	Manipur	Nil
15.	Meghalaya	Nil
16.	Mizoram	23
17.	Nagaland	Nil
18.	Orissa	50
19.	Punjab	500
20.	Rajasthan	Nil
21.	Sikkim	40
22.	Tamil Nadu	Nil
23.	Tripura	20
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil
25.	West Bengal	Nil
26.	A & N Islands	12
27.	Chandigarh	10
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2
29.	Daman & Diu	3
30.	Delhi	100
31.	Lakshadweep	Nil
32.	Pondicherry	5

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**SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply states that the ideal arrangement that the Government has in mind and I imagine plans for the future is that, there should be one outlet, one fair price shop, for an average of about 2,000 people. The implies that we need something of the order of 4,50,000 public distribution outlets or fair price shops. Now the hon. Minister has also stated here a target, for opening of fair price shops during the current financial year. But he has not given the total. But I totalled it up. It comes to just 2,511. He has not given the existing number of shops.

My first supplementary is this. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the total number of outlets now or at the beginning of the current financial year and what shall be the average population served by each distribution outlet at the end of the financial year. The actual at present and not the ideal in the future.

**SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED:** The total number of the Fair Price Shops as on 30th June, 1991, is 3,97,469 and at an average, they are serving a population of 2200 each.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The question is: How many shops will you have by the end of the financial year?

**SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED:** The details have been given along with the answer. Actually, under the 20 Point Programme, the States themselves have come out with so many shops that they will add to the present strength. so, every year, the States themselves give the figures. Therefore, this is only the voluntary figures which was given by the States which they are likely to add to the existing number of shops. in addition to that, under the revamped PDS Scheme, the States themselves have come out that they will be needing 11,000 shops more to cater to the needs of the people.

**SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:** As shown here, at the end of the year we shall have only 400,000 shops. This is not quite what the government would like to have. The part

(e) of my question was related to the share of the rural population and the share of the rural market in the items distributed by the Public Distribution System. I am sorry to state that this question simply has not been answered. The answer says that 75 per cent of the shops are located in the rural areas. I did not ask for the break-up of the Fair Price Shops in terms of Urban and Rural location. But what I wanted was: What is the share of the rural population, especially the population living below the poverty-line, which have access to the Fair Price Shops and the Public Distribution System? I would like the hon. Minister to kindly answer that as well as give an estimated idea of the percentage of the total market in these key items which are being retailed through these outlets.

**SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED:** Out of the number that I have given, about 90,247 Fair Price Shops are in the urban areas and that forms about 24 per cent. I have given the average population which each Fair Price Shops is serving. Accordingly, the urban areas which are having this number - 90,247 shops - are catered to that extent. The rest of it are in the rural areas and proportionately the rural population is being served.

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:** What is the percentage of rural population served?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Now, mathematically you can calculate it.

**SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:** The Minister is also capable of calculating it. Let him calculate it and tell us.

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL:** Sir, at present the items to be distributed are procured in bulk and then distributed all over the country. In the answer, it has been mentioned that the Central government has asked the State Governments to procure locally available items also for distribution. This is a very good suggestion for

which I congratulate the Government. But then I would like to tell that in Maharashtra *jowar* is the staple food for which procurement is done by Maharashtra Government. They have made special arrangements for funding the procurement centres and distribution and storage of essential items. Is the Central Government going to give all such help to the different State Governments for that? Of course, this is a very good decision. But then in every State, the staple food is different and it is different even in the districts. For Maharashtra, *jowar* is the staple food in some districts and in some other districts rice is the staple food. In Rajasthan, *maize* and *bajra* are the staple food. I would like to know whether some provisions are being made for distribution of the same. If it is made, it will save the cost of transportation; the locally popular items will be distributed and it will give incentives to the farmers and speedy distribution will be done. This is my first question. Secondly, I would like to know whether special arrangement for distribution has been made.

**SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED:** Sir, in addition to the six commodities which are being given under the PDS, we have requested the State Governments to add more items according to the local requirements. As the hon. Member has said, staple food in different States is different. I agree fully with that. We have suggested to the State Governments to procure locally if they add to the present commodity. One reality which the people are facing is that the production of the coarse grain is going down day by day and the prices of the coarse grains also are coming almost on par with that of wheat and rice. It is for the State Governments to locally procure and add to their PDS items:

**SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:** We have been demanding for several years for introduction of 14 essential commodities for distribution through the fair price shops. The cloth and paper are two of these very essential commodities. The State Government has no control on these items. May I know from the Mon. hon. Minister whether they will take

steps to introduce at least these two items for distribution through the fair price shops?

**SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED:** In fact, in the last PDS Advisory Council Meeting, these things were discussed. We have requested the State Governments to introduce some of the very essential commodities which are used by the common people. For example, tea, exercise books, soaps etc. Number of State Governments have accepted that and they are going to introduce these items also under the PDS. If the hon. Member has any such request, I can pass it on to the State government, if he has not already drawn the attention of the state Government. (*Interruptions*)

**DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY:** The major problem in the procurement system is that the food Corporation of India or the local State Government corporations which are procuring the food, they are having lot of storage problems and they are incurring lot of expenditure towards storage and distribution. Will the Government take special measures to see that these storage system and transportation system are brought to the minimum possible and save the money therein?

**SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED:** We are aware of the difficulties that the Food Corporation of India is facing in this matter. No doubt the storage also is a problem. (*Interruptions*)

**MR.SPEAKER:** This is not proper.

(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED:** We are aware of this situation. Under the revamped PDS, we have requested the State Governments to create storage facilities locally and try to see that the door-step delivery is done.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Well, it seems that many Members are interested in discussing this matter. I am going to fix time for Half-an-Hour Discussion on this later on.

I am going to the next question.

( *Interruptions* )

SHRI BUTA SINGH: I request that this is an important matter because it affects the people who are living below the poverty line especially in Western Rajasthan. (*Interruptions*) Therefore, kindly fix the date for a Short Duration Discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already said that.

[ *Translation* ]

#### Women in civil services

\*185. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number and percentage of women in the civil services at present, State-wise; and

(b) the steps initiated by the Government to encourage women to enter into the civil services?

[ *English* ]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI

MARGARET ALVA): (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b) The following steps have been initiated by the Government in recent years for attracting women to Civil Services:

(i) The policy of inter-cadre transfer of All India services has been relaxed in the case of single women officers allotted to the North-eastern cadres and J&K. It has also been decided not to allot women officers to these cadres for a period of 5 years from 1990.

(ii) On marriage, change of cadre of either of the two officers (provided both belong to the All India Services) is permitted to ensure that they are in the same State cadre with the condition that the transfer is not to his/her home state.

(iii) Rules relating to grant of leave in continuation of maternity leave are in the process of being liberalised.

(iv) Guidelines for posting husband and wife together wherever possible have been issued.

(v) T.V. serials and spot advertisement have been encouraged over the national net work commending the role played by women officers in Civil services.