

Exploitation of Women

3269. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the continued exploitation of women in different fields; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b). The Government views with great concern the exploitation of women in India in various fields and is committed to check it. A number of steps have been taken in areas such as legislation, education, awareness generation, economic empowerment, legal literacy, counselling, legal aid, enforcement, support to voluntary agencies, publicity compaigns etc, with a view to elevating the status of women which would reduce their exploitation and vulnerability to social, cultural and economic oppression. This is a continuing process. Government has also set up the National Commission for women to ensure due representation of women in all spheres, to check discrimination against women and for redressal of their grievances. The main task of the Commission is to study and monitor all matters relating to the constitution and legal safeguards provided for women, to review the existing legislations concerning women and suggest emendments, wherever necessary. It will also look into the complaints and take *suo moto* notice and action of the cases involving deprivation of the rights of women.

[Translation]

Casualties Due to Consumption of Adulterated Food and Spurious Liquor

3270. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the number of casualties reported on account of consumption of adulterated food and spurious liquor during 1991, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): Administration of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 is generally done by the Food (health) Authorities of the States and Union Territories, who monitor the cases of food adulteration and consequent casualties, if any.

As per information made available to this Ministry, there has been no casualty due to consumption of adulterated food and spurious liquor during the year 1991 in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala and Sikkim.

[English]**Hoarding of Wheat**

3271. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA:
SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV:
SHRI RAM BADAN:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether big farmers and traders all over the country are hoarding wheat for profiteering purpose; and

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken or

proposed by the Government to unearth the hoarded foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b). No maximum stock holding limits have been fixed by Government in respect of farmers. To increase availability of wheat and stabilise prices, Central Government have decided that the maximum stock holding limits for wheat should not exceed 250 qtls. for wholesalers and 50 quintals for retailers. State Governments/Union Territory Administrations were intimated of this decision on 7th February, 1992 and asked to give effect to this decision with immediate effect and also to enforce it vigorously. The State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations carry out checks in this regard.

Admission in Medical Colleges

3272. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for admission in Government Medical Colleges;

(b) whether seats earmarked for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are filled in Admission; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) In its recommendation on Graduate Medical Education, the Medical Council of India has prescribed the criteria relating to age, minimum educational qualifications, procedure for determining merit etc. for admission to medical colleges.

As per directions of the Supreme Court, 15% of the MBBS/BDS seats and 25% of Post Graduate seats in the recognised Government Medical/Dental Colleges in the country are filled up purely on merit determined on the basis of All India Entrance Examination conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) for admission to undergraduate courses and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi (AIIMS) for admission to Post-graduate courses respectively. While broadly conforming to the criteria relating to minimum educational qualifications, etc. prescribed by the Medical Council of India, each State/Union Territory has its own procedure for admission in the medical colleges under its control. Selection of the candidates for seats allocated from the Central Pool to the beneficiary State/Union Territory/Central Ministries is done by them in accordance with their own criteria and procedure.

(b) and (c). The Central Government have prescribed the reservation percentage of 15% and 7.5% for admission of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students respectively in the various medical colleges under its control. The reservation quota for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates is largely filled up through the students belonging to these categories.

[Translation]

Licences for Sugar Mills

3273. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
SHRI MUKUL WASNIK:
SHRI RATILAL VARMA:
DR. RAMESH CHAND
TOMAR:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHLIA: