

(c) The aforesaid provision was made in the Act with a view to ensure that the animals in the zoos get conditions congenial to their physical and mental health.

(d) Central Government has not given any assistance mobile zoos.

Insurgency in Tripura

*225. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARAYA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Rebels kill 24 in Tripura" appearing in 'Statesman', dated February 17, 1997;

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

(c) whether the State Government has proved a failure in tackling the situation effectively;

(d) whether the Central Government have taken the matter seriously;

(e) if so, the steps taken to control the situation in the State; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) Both the State and Central Governments have, in close coordination, taken several steps which, inter alia, include induction of adequate number of Central Para-Military Forces and Army units, improved coordination and sharing of intelligence, declaration of the worst affected areas as disturbed areas, strengthening/modernisation of the State Police Force and sanction of Special Central Financial Assistance.

[Translation]

Production of Groundnut

*228. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated total production of groundnut in the country during 1996-97, State-wise;

(b) whether there has been decline in the production of groundnut during 1995-96 in some States;

(c) if so, the names of such States and the extent to which it has declined as compared to 1994-95;

(d) the reasons for decline; and

(e) the special steps taken by the Government to boost the production of groundnut?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The estimated data on the production of groundnut in the country for Rabi 1996-97 season have not yet become

available. However, the State-wise production of groundnut during Kharif 1996-97 season is given in the Statement-I.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The decline in production has been to the extent of 2.4 Lakh Tonnes, primarily due to less production in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan during 1995-96. A comparative statement of estimates of production of groundnut during 1994-95 and 1995-96 showing the decline in production in some States over the year 1994-95 is given in the Statement-II.

(d) This shortfall in the production of groundnut was due to the vagaries of weather. The Monsoon was delayed which affected the sowing operations in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Orissa. A long dry spell followed causing moisture stress affecting the production.

(e) In order to boost the production of groundnut including other oilseeds in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in operation in 22 States. Under the programme financial assistance is being provided by way of subsidies for various critical inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of minikits, rhizobium culture, gypsum/pyrites, improved farm implements, plant protection equipments, farmer's training, sprinkler sets etc. In addition, frontline and general demonstrations are organised on farmer's field to transfer the production technology.

Statement-I

State-wise Advance Estimates of Production of Kharif 1996-97 season of Groundnut

('000 Tonnes)

State	Kharif 1996-97
Andhra Pradesh	1665.0
Bihar	4.0
Gujarat	2159.0
Haryana	3.0
Karnataka	955.0
Kerala	12.0
Madhya Pradesh	310.0
Maharashtra	506.0
Orissa	39.0
Punjab	12.0
Rajasthan	247.0
Tamil Nadu	1100.0
Uttar Pradesh	110.0
Others	5.0
All India	7127.0

Statement-II*State-wise Comparative Statement of Estimates of Production of Groundnut during 1994-95 and 1995-96*

State	Production (Thousand tonnes)		Extent to which the production declined over 1994-95
	1994-95	1995-96	
Andhra Pradesh	1670.7	2426.2	
Bihar	4.8	4.3	-0.5
Goa	2.1	1.9	-0.2
Gujarat	2380.1	1028.3	-1351.8
Haryana	1.8	1.7	-0.1
Himachal Pradesh	0.4	0.4	
Jammu and Kashmir	0.1	0.1	
Karnataka	945.5	1156.0	
Kerala	12.8	12.5	-0.3
Madhya Pradesh	214.3	290.6	
Maharashtra	629.2	576.4	-52.8
Nagaland	0.5	1.0	
Orissa	98.2	92.3	-5.9
Punjab	8.0	8.0	
Rajasthan	197.5	163.6	-33.9
Tamil Nadu	1762.4	1911.6	
Tripura	1.9	1.3	-0.6
Uttar Pradesh	101.6	107.2	
West Bengal	26.3	26.6	
Pondicharry	3.4	3.6	
All India	8061.6	7813.6	-248.0

Bill for Mentally Retarded Persons

*230. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a comprehensive bill for the mentally retarded persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any memorandum in this regard;

(d) if so, details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(e) the time by which the bill is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Action is being taken for introduction of National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Mental Retardation and Cerebral Palsy Bill, 1995 in Parliament. The main objectives, *inter-alia*, of the Trust will be to make arrangements for the care and rehabilitation of such persons, to provide aid and assistance to the organisations engaged in their care and to receive and manage the properties bequeathed for the purpose.

Simplified Procedure for Arms Licences

*231. SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether incidents of looting and dacoity in the buses by the anti-social elements along with Indo-Pak border districts have increased during the current year;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to simplify the procedure of granting arms licences for the safety of the people;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (d) "Public Order" and "Police" being State subjects as per the Constitution of India, the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime are primarily the concern of the State Governments. Specific data relating to looting and dacoity in buses are not maintained at the Central level. Latest information about the incidence of dacoity and robbery, district-wise in the States bordering Pakistan is available for the year 1994 and the same is enclosed as Statement. It is felt that the existing procedure regarding grant of arms licence needs no change.

Statement*Incidence of Dacoity and Robbery in Districts of Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan during 1994*

S.No.	States/Distt.	Dacoity	Robbery
		1994	1994
1	2	3	4
I. Gujarat			
1.	Ahmedabad Commr.	118	134
2.	Ahmedabad Rural	50	54
3.	Ahwa-Dans	1	0
4.	Amreli	29	15
5.	Anand	35	37
6.	Banaskantha	96	88