

(d) the role proposed to be assigned to State Governments for satisfactory execution of the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d). A proposal to streamline Public Distribution System (PDS) with its focus on poor is under consideration of the Government in consultation with States/UTs. The details are being worked out.

[Translation]

Registration of Newspapers

1754. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the norms fixed for registration of newspapers;

(b) the number of applications for registration of newspapers received and cleared during each of the last three years, State-wise.

(c) the time by which the remaining cases are likely to be cleared;

(d) whether some newspapers have been closed down during the said period; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Newspapers are registered by the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) in terms of the various provisions of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 (PRB Act), as amended from time to time. The norms basically include the verification of the titles as received from the District Magistrates etc., the authentication of declaration by the District Magistrate concerned and commencement of the publication of the Newspapers of various periodicities within the period stipulated in the PRB Act.

(b) Details are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) The pending cases will be cleared as soon as the publishers complete the legal formalities in terms of the various provisions of the PRB Act.

(d) and (e) Information had been received in the office of RNI about closure of two weeklies during the period 1993-94. The reasons for the closure had not been indicated.

STATEMENT

Number of applications for Registration of Newspapers received and cleared during 1993, 1994 and 1995

State	1993		1994		1995	
	Number of applications Received	Number of applications Cleared	Number of applications Received	Number of applications Cleared	Number of applications Received	Number of applications Cleared
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	245	54	125	45	192	64
Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	3	1	1	-
Assam	50	9	68	26	59	25
Bihar	103	29	129	39	97	28
Goa	2	1	-	-	-	-
Gujarat	101	29	151	30	188	46
Haryana	73	31	98	56	112	24
Himachal Pradesh	14	5	6	3	16	6
Jammu and Kashmir	30	8	25	11	43	16
Karnataka	236	80	291	124	263	85
Kerala	75	35	94	33	175	40
Madhya Pradesh	383	185	515	209	538	181
Maharashtra	522	117	412	178	349	107
Manipur	28	-	13	-	25	5
Meghalaya	9	-	7	-	7	3
Mizoram	17	3	2	-	13	1
Nagaland	8	-	2	4	6	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Orissa	95	38	114	34	110	33
Punjab	38	19	58	24	62	14
Rajasthan	214	182	513	211	392	82
Sikkim	5	-	5	1	10	-
Tamil Nadu	180	58	195	85	206	99
Tripura	8	1	11	2	10	1
Uttar Pradesh	970	500	1071	499	1009	475
West Bengal	179	53	177	97	118	60
Andaman and Nicobar	11	5	3	2	-	-
Chandigarh	23	7	17	9	24	9
Delhi	479	208	553	298	565	254
Daman	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lakshdweep	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pondicherry	2	-	5	2	-	-

[English]

Procurement of Wheat

1755 DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the procurement target for wheat set up by the Government has been severely upset with trends showing a decline of 20 percent in procurement during the current rabi season;

(b) if so, whether the Government were confident of getting the target of 13 million tonnes;

(c) if so, the main reasons for the shortfall; and

(d) the extent to which the shortfall of wheat has been reported from the States so far?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) to (d) Since procurement of wheat for Central Food under minimum support scheme is totally on a voluntary basis, no targets in this regard are fixed by the Ministry.

A quantity of 81.35 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured upto 1.7.1996 during the current Rabi Marketing season 1996-97 as compared with 122.05 lakh tonnes procured during the corresponding period last season.

The procurement of wheat declined mainly due to the following factors :

- (i) Lesser production and lesser arrival of wheat in the market in crop year 1995-96 as compared to 1994-95.
- (ii) Purchase of 10% of the market arrivals of wheat by the trade as compared with only 6% in the previous season.

Proposal to Double AI Fleet

1756. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air India propose to double its fleet in the next few years;

(b) if so, the details of the plans;

(c) whether it is a fact that Air India plans to meet its entire fund requirement for fleet expansion through external commercial borrowings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) Air India plans to continue the renewal and expansion of its fleet of aircraft during the ninth plan period. To meet the requirements of funds for growth, Air India will undertake capital restructuring at an appropriate stage. Some funds will be arranged through external commercial borrowings also.

Delhi-Silchar Flight

1757. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether Indian Airlines is operating a daily flight between Delhi and Silchar;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to start a daily flight between these cities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?