

Scheduled Tribes (Restriction on Transfer of Lands and Restoration of Alienated Lands) Amendment Bill, 1996 for the consideration and assent of the President. The Bill has been examined in consultation with concerned Ministries, who have sought clarifications on the Bill from the Government of Kerala. The State Government have furnished their clarifications only in the last week. Presently, the Kerala Scheduled Tribes (Restriction on transfer of Lands and Restoration of Alienated Lands) Amendment Bill, 1996, is being examined by the concerned central Ministries in the light of clarifications furnished by the State Government of Kerala.

[Translation]

#### Incidents of Extremists

575. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :  
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of incidents of terrorist and caste conflicts occurred in Assam, Andhra Pradesh and in the North-Eastern states during the last one year;

(b) the number of persons forced to migrate from the states;

(c) the number of police stations blown up by the extremists, State-wise;

(d) the number of civilian/security forces personnel killed in those incidents, State-wise;

(e) the details of compensation/assistance provided to the dependants of the officials killed in the said incidents; and

(f) the effective steps taken by the Government to control the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected.

[English]

#### Functioning of FCI

576. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to revamp the functioning of the Food Corporation of India with a view to make the Public Distribution System in the country more effective and efficient;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) With a view to making the functioning, including PDS of Food Corporation of India more effective and efficient, FCI has recently set up 8 more sub-regional offices. For the present there is no further proposal under consideration of Government to revamp the functioning of FCI.

#### Task Force for Project Tiger

577. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a special task force for the Project Tiger in the country;

(b) if so, the main objectives of the constitution of such task force;

(c) the extent to which the Central Government propose to bear the expenditure of such task force; and

(d) the details of the programme in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has proposed to set up a 'Special Strike Force' during IX Plan in the tiger reserve areas in order to provide necessary manpower and equipment to combat the problem of tiger poaching and other illegal activities in these areas.

(c) and (d) The Central Government proposes to bear 100% expenditure on salaries and allowances of the personnel of this force for first five years; thereafter the expenditure would be shared on 50 : 50 basis between the Central and State Governments concerned. The expenditure on equipment will entirely be borne by the Central Government.

#### Floods/Cyclone in Andhra Pradesh

578. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :  
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received full report in regard to the damage caused by floods/cyclone in Andhra Pradesh during October-November 1996;

(b) if so, the details of damages and the assistance

recommended by the Central team which visited the affected area;

(c) the details of assistance sought by the State Government and amount sanctioned by the Union Government to compensate the affected persons of the State till date;

(d) whether the full sanctioned amount has been released;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the full assistance is likely to be released to State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) According to the reports received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, cyclones, heavy rains and floods during October and November, 1996 affected a population of 1.71 crores, claimed 1412 human lives and damaged 7.46 lakh houses and crops in an area of 15.49 lakh ha. in the State. The State Government had submitted two memoranda seeking additional assistance of Rs. 2693.00 crores from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) for relief and rehabilitation measures in the affected areas. Central teams visited the affected areas and after considering these reports the National Calamity Relief Committee approved an assistance of Rs. 142.00 crores from the NFCR, which was released to the State Government on 1st January, 1997. This was in addition to Rs. 93.14 crores released as Central share of Calamity Relief Fund during 1996-97 and Rs. 63.00 crores sanctioned for rehabilitation in the coconut and cashewnut sector.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

#### **Public Distribution System**

579. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether functioning of the Public Distribution System in rural areas and its effectiveness have touched rock bottom in most of the States except southern part of the country;

(b) whether only 5.2% of the house-holds of Orissa, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are drawing from the PDS while it is 82% and 78% in Tamil Nadu and Kerala respectively;

(c) if so, whether food security for the poor has remained ineffective despite the high level of foodgrains production and large stocks lying with the FCI;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures contemplated by the Government to make Public Distribution System effective ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. Central Government makes available certain essential commodities to States and UTs, whereas the operational responsibility of implementing the PDS including distribution in rural and urban areas is of the State Governments/UT Administrations. There is considerable variation in the reach of PDS among different States in the rural areas.

PDS is universal in nature. The strengthening and streamlining of the operations under PDS is a continuous process. Matters relating to improving the PDS are emphasised and discussed with State Governments/UT Administrations in various fora like regional meetings, conferences, etc. Central Government also monitors the progress in various States/UTs through periodical reports on selected items.

Government of India has now taken a decision to streamline the PDS with focus on the poor, under which 10 kgs. of foodgrains per month per family at about half the Central Issue Price (CIP) will be provided to all families living below poverty line. State Governments/UT Administrations have been asked to ensure necessary arrangements for fool-proof identification of poor, delivery of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for distribution in a transparent and accurate manner.

State Governments/UT Administrations have also been directed to implement the system of monitoring and reporting on the working of PDS together with constitution of Vigilance Committees at Fair Price Shops, District and State levels.

[Translation]

#### **Additions to OBCs List**

580. SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the department of Social Welfare of the Gujarat Government has sent proposals to the Centre regarding enlargement of common list of Other Backward Classes in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of proposals received during the said period till date with year-wise break-up;