

(b) The production of sugar by the mills in the State of Maharashtra during the last 3 seasons was as under:—

Sugar season	Production (Lakh tonnes)
1993-94	27.46
1994-95	50.25
1995-96 (Prov.)	53.76

(c) to (e) The export of sugar has been decanalised with effect from 15.1.1997. Under the new system, export of sugar is being carried out through Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under Ministry of Commerce. Government has placed a quantity of 2.5 lakh tonnes of free sale sugar at the disposal of APEDA out of 1996-97 season's production for exports. In addition, a quantity of 36,300 MTs. of freesale sugar/raw sugar has also been placed at the disposal of APEDA for Preferential Quota Exports to EEC and USA through Indian Sugar & General Industry Export Import Corporation Ltd. As per the information received from APEDA, the commercial exports are being made to Pakistan, Maldives, Myanmar and Dubai.

#### Floods in Gujarat

957. SHRI P. SHANMUGAM :  
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :  
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :  
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :  
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :  
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was devastating flood in Gujarat resulting in heavy loss of life and property in the State;

(b) if so, the number of lives lost and the extent of damage caused to standing crops/property;

(c) whether the Government have sent any official team to assess the losses suffered;

(d) the assistance sought by the Government of Gujarat from the Union Government and the financial assistance given by the Union Government to Gujarat to render immediate help to the affected people and rehabilitate them to safer places; and

(e) the measures taken to prevent such damages by flood in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) According to the reports received from the Government of Gujarat, heavy rains and floods during the current South-West monsoon has affected 2125 villages in 17 districts claiming 191 human lives and damaging crops in an area of 1.98 lakh ha. and 1.02 lakh houses/huts.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs. 55.24 crores comprising 2nd and 3rd quarterly instalment of Calamity Relief Fund was released to the State Government for relief and rehabilitation measures in flood affected areas. With the first instalment of Rs. 27.62 crores released earlier, an amount of Rs. 82.86 crores has been made available to the State Government from the Calamity Relief Fund during 1997-98. A Memorandum has been received from the State Government indicating losses of Rs. 664.33 crores in various sectors and seeking liberal assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR). A Central team has visited the affected areas in Gujarat recently to assess the situation. The National Calamity Relief Committee will decide on the quantum of assistance from the NFCR based on the report of the team.

(e) The flood control measures being implemented include construction of reservoirs and embankments, channel improvements, town protection and river training works.

[Translation]

#### Allocation of Foodgrains to Uttar Pradesh

958. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :  
SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :  
SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :  
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 89 development blocks were included under the PDS in the hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh facilitating each family to get 30-40 kilograms at cheaper rates;

(b) if so, the reasons for providing 10 kilograms foodgrains to each family at present;

(c) whether the people of the State particularly Uttarakhand region are facing great difficulty as a result of drastic reduction of foodgrains quota under the Public Distribution System;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the time by which the quota cuts are expected to be restored; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to increase the quota of food-grains and edible oils for the State during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (f) Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under the joint responsibility of Central Government and State Governments/UT Administrations. Central Government procures and distributes in bulk to States/UTs. State Governments allocate foodgrains within the state on the basis of priorities fixed by them. The allocation of foodgrains under the TPDS is made on the basis of average annual lifting for the last 10 years taking into account the requirements of BPL population. Uttar Pradesh has been allocated more foodgrains than its average annual lifting in view of the large BPL population in the State. The allocation is higher than the offtake in 1996-97 which, in turn, was the highest in recent years. The State Government has been advised to ensure availability of foodgrains in food deficit areas.

The quota of the imported Palmolein is given to the States on the basis of their demand. Government of Uttar Pradesh has not made any demand in the last few years. Therefore, the question of increasing the quota of edible oil to U.P. does not arise. The Central Government has not finalised the import programme for 1997-98.

[English]

#### Pre-Examination Coaching to SC/ST Students

959. SHRI MUNNI LAL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any policy to establish coaching institutes for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates for preparation of competitive examinations for different categories of All India Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of successful candidates come out from such institutes in different categories of services during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Under this scheme free coaching is provided to SC/ST students through Pre-Examination Training Centres to enable them to compete successfully in the competitive examinations conducted by UPSC, State Public Service Commission, Public Sector Undertaking and other recruiting bodies. Central Assistance is provided on a matching basis of 50 : 50 to the States over and above their committed liability and on 100% basis in case of U.Ts. Universities and Pvt. Coaching institutes.

(c) The information is being collected from the concerned agencies.

#### Purulia Arms Dropping Case

960. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :  
SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :  
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one foreign agency had alerted the Government about the possibility of arms dropping operation in West Bengal-Bihar border areas specially at Purulia;

(b) if so, the reasons for not alerting the concerned security agencies;

(c) the action initiated by the Government for such negligence;

(d) whether the Government have taken action on the recommendations of the Committee on Government Assurances on Purulia Arms Dropping Case; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. the R&AW had obtained advance information about the possibility of arms being unloaded by a small plane after landing at an abandoned airfield in Dhanbad area of Bihar for an insurgent group of that area. This information was conveyed to another intelligence agency by R&AW. The Government of Bihar was accordingly sensitised by the concerned intelligence agency.

(c) The Central Bureau of Investigation which has been entrusted with the investigation of this case has submitted reports highlighting certain administrative lapses on the part of different agencies that came to light during the investigation. The concerned authorities have been apprised of the reports of the CBI for appropriate action.