

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The 'Economic Times' in its edition of 2nd July, 97 has reported that Karnataka Government's assessment of families Below Poverty Line is much higher than the figures of the Central Government. It further reported that the monthly quota of foodgrains has been slashed by the Central Government from 1,20,000 MT to 35,000 MT, the open market prices of foodgrains have sharply risen as a result, and the Central Cooperative Wholesale stores as well as Agriculture Produce Marketing Societies will have to close following the reduction of 90% of foodgrains.

(c) No, Sir. The allocation of foodgrains to States under Targeted PDS is based on last ten years' average annual lifting by the States/UTs taking into account the requirement of the households below the poverty line (BPL).

(d) The number of BPL households have been worked out as per the methodology of the 'Expert Group' constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Late Prof. Lakdawala. According to Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, the Expert Group methodology gives "poverty estimates closest to ground reality" and as such they have been adopted by Government of India.

Non-Utilisation of Grants for Consumer Courts

928. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the Maharashtra Government for use of grants sanctioned for 1995-96 and 1996-97 for strengthening the infrastructure of Consumer Courts during 1997-98 because the State Governments could not use these grants during the said period due to certain complicated procedures;

(b) if so, whether a decision has since been taken in the matter; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to expedite the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) A request in this regard has been received from the Maharashtra Government.

(b) and (c) Central Government has already accorded permission to the Govt. of Maharashtra to utilise the grant sanctioned in 1995-97 for strengthening the infrastructure of Consumer Courts, during the year 1997-98.

FCI Godowns in A.P.

929. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of the recommendations made by the FCI, the godowns at Dichipally in Nizamabad in Andhra Pradesh has not yet been constructed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is not even a single small depot owned by FCI in Nizamabad district and FCI has to depend on CWC/private parties for shortage of accommodation; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in construction of FCI godowns in Dichipally at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (d) At present, Food Corporation of India is not having its own storage capacity at Dichipally which falls under Nizamabad district of Andhra Pradesh region. However, the Central Warehousing Corporation is having 95,760 MT capacity in the district. Of that, FCI is utilising 45,620 MT capacity. Apart from that, FCI has also taken on hire ARDC godowns which are privately owned with the capacity of 19,296 MT. The present hired capacity is considered to be sufficient and the Food Corporation of India does not propose to construct its own capacity because of low utilisation and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Amendment in Police Act

930. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up or propose to set up any committee or commission for giving suggestions to bring about improvement in the Police Act;