

*[Translation]***Residential Schools**

5855. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating about the need to provide block-wise free residential schools for the children belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and minority communities;

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Government to provide block-wise free residential schools for the girls of the said communities; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) The Ministry is in the process of finalising the details of a new scheme in this regard called the Kasturba Gandhi Swantantrata Vidyalaya.

*[English]***Jagannath Shetty Commission Report**

5856. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the Editorial captioned "ISI casts a long shadow" appearing in the "Pioneer" dated March 11, 1997;

(b) if so, the observations made in the said Report regarding ISI role in India; and

(c) the specific steps taken by the Government to check the ISI from using neighbouring countries to push narcotics, arms and ammunition and funds into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The Government has seen the newspaper report. The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Review of Forest Policy

5857. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the Forest Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof with background;

(c) whether this review will include updating of wildlife Protection Act as well as the Environment Protection Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this review and updating will help the general people in any way and also provide availability of additional Central financial assistance to implement environment projects very smoothly and rapidly; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is contemplating to review the National Forest Policy, 1988 for which details are being worked out.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to review the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. However, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is being reviewed for amendment to make it more effective.

(e) and (f) The review of the National Forest Policy would *inter alia* provide more opportunity for active participation by the community in sustainable management of forest resources. Review and updating of the Forest Policy, or Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is not linked to improving the availability of central financial assistance for implementing environment projects.

Assistance for Forestry Research

5858. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial/technical assistance is likely to be received from the United Nations Development Programme to increase the capacity of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and educational institutions for the forestry research;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the projects likely to be launched with such assistance?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) A UNDP assisted Project for Strengthening and Developing the ICFRE is being implemented since September, 1992 for a period of five years with the UNDP contribution being US \$ 2.56 million and the Govt. of India contribution being Rs. 21.94 million. The main objectives of the project are as follows:

- Establishment of a solid research base towards increasing forest productivity for optimising utilisation of biomass to support afforestation, reforestation and rehabilitation of degraded forests, village commons and agroforestry on farm lands;

- Development of extension mechanisms to transfer proven research results and tested technologies to the users; and
- Upgradation of research capability at the national level and integration of forestry research at international level, keeping in view that progress towards the goal may be achieved by integrated efforts of many well-knit and multi-disciplinary teams of skilled scientists and technicians.

Allocation of Funds to States

5859. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether various states are demanding increase in the share of States in the revenue as suggested by the Tenth Finance Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration to convene the Chief Ministers' Conference to discuss this issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question refers to an alternative scheme of sharing of resources between the Centre and the States which was recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission for introduction with effect from 1st April, 1996 under which a fixed share (29%) of the gross proceeds of almost all Central taxes is to be transferred to the States.

As promised by F.M. in the Budget Speech on July 22, 1996, the Ministry of Finance had brought out a discussion paper listing out various arguments for and against the alternative scheme and tabled this paper in Parliament on December 20, 1996. It was brought out in this paper that based on Budget Estimates 1996-97, implementation of the scheme w.e.f April 1, 1996 would result in additional transfer of resources from the Centre to the States of Rs. 2091 crore.

Finance Minister announced in his Budget Speech on February 22, 1997, the Government's intention to accept the recommendations of the TFC to form a single divisible pool of taxes to be shared between the Centre and the States.

(c) and (d) The alternative scheme of devolution was discussed by the Standing Committee of Inter-State Council on 15th January, 1997 and it is again scheduled for discussion on 10th May, 1997.

Shortage of Life Saving Drugs

5860. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
PROF. RITA VERMA :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the essential life saving drugs are not available in the market which is causing a lot of inconvenience to the people;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have conducted or propose to conduct any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make available such drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (e) Government is operating a system whereby localised shortage of medicines is reported by the State Drug Controllers to the concerned manufacturer under intimation to this Department i.e. shortages are monitored at State level. The Department, however, on the basis of reports received in regard to shortages, takes up the matter with the concerned manufacturers for ensuring speedy availability of the medicines in the areas concerned

A general analysis of the reports received indicate that no general shortage of essential/life saving drugs has come to notice. However, localised shortage of some particular branded formulations has been reported. Even in such instances of temporary shortages, it has been noticed that therapeutic equivalents of medicines are normally available.

Crop Insurance Scheme

5861. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :
DR. ARVIND SHARMA :
SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where Crop Insurance Scheme is being implemented at present;

(b) the economic and physical targets set under the scheme during the Eighth Five Year Plan and the achievement made so far in this regard State-wise;