

MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :
 (a) and (b) The Central Government fixed the Minimum Statutory Price (SMP) of sugarcane. The sugar mills are independent entities and they are free to make payment more than the SMP. As per the available information all the thirteen sugar mills in Haryana are paying at a rate more than the SMP.

(c) and (d) The Government does not maintain profit and loss accounts in respect of sugar mills. Besides cane availability, the profitability or otherwise of sugar mills depends upon a variety of factors such as size, age and condition of plant and machinery, technical and managerial competence etc. and would vary from mill to mill. Sugar mills have themselves to prepare schemes to remove their economic shortcomings and get them approved by the financial institutions. Financial assistance is also available from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rates of interest for such rehabilitation/modernisation schemes, subject to fulfilment of the conditions laid down.

[Translation]

Embezzlement of Fund for Adivasis

4821. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the withdrawal of Rs. 3 lakh five thousand through fake cheques between December, 17, 1996 to January 14, 1997 is the latest link of Adivasis Department scam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there was misappropriation of funds to the tune of Rs. 2 crore 25 lakh between 1992 and 1996 in this Department;

(d) if so, whether the Government have initiated action to inquire into the matter;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) It is not mentioned as to which State this Adivasis Department indicates. So, without the name of specific State/UT/District, it may not be possible to get the details.

(b) to (f) In view of the reply to part (a) does not arise.

Support Prices of Fruits/Vegetables

4822. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA:
 SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI
 CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose of fix support price of fruits and vegetables and other commodities not covered under the MSP scheme at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of funds earmarked for the current year for the fruit growing States, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) The Government is fixing the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of all major agricultural commodities. The other commodities mainly horticultural crops like fruits, vegetables and spices which are perishable or having localised production are covered under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) to protect the interest of the farmers from making distress sale of their produce. The MIS is undertaken on year to year basis at the specific request of a particular State Government as and when it is apprehended that price of a commodity may fall to uneconomic levels during peak arrival period. A pre-determined quantity at a price fixed by the Central Government in Consultation with the concerned State Government, is procured by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) as a Central nodal agency and the agencies nominated by State Government. The losses, if any under the scheme are shared by the Central and State Government on 50:50 basis. During the year 1996-97, the MIS was implemented for onion and potato (Karnataka), Malta and Potato (Uttar Pradesh), Kinoo/Malta/Sangtara/Galgol (Himachal Pradesh) and chillies (Andhra Pradesh). The MIS for potato in U.P. continued upto 30.4.1997 and MIS for chillies in A.P. is effective till 15th May, 1997. During the current financial year, no proposal under MIS has been received from any State Government.

(d) Budget provision of Rs. 100.00 lakh has been proposed in the Central Budget for 1997-98 for reimbursement of losses, if any, for implementation of the price support/market intervention scheme. State-wise earmarking of funds is not made for these purposes.

[English]

Ban on Entry of Visitors in National Parks

4823. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
 SHRI SHIVAJI VITHAL RAO KAMBLE:

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

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to ban the entry of visitors in the National Parks, Sanctuaries and tiger reserves in the country;

(b) if so, whether any loss/danger exists by the entry of visitors to the National Parks;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to reconsider their decision and make laws for visitors more stringent; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Short and Sub-Standard Supply of Sugar and Foodgrains

4824. SHRI SUKHLAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether some complaints have been received from some States regarding short and sub-standard supply of sugar and foodgrains under the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) The complaints regarding short and sub-standard supply of sugar and foodgrains under Public Distribution System (PDS) are dealt with by the State Government concerned.

However a complaint has recently been received from the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi about the supply of poor quality of sugar for distribution through PDS by certain sugar mills of the State of Uttar Pradesh. The quality of sugar being supplied to fair price shops was checked and it was observed that the same was as per the Indian Sugar Standards. However, a watch is being kept on the supply of sugar to the fair price shops of the State of Delhi.

[English]

Import of Rifampicin

4825. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from small scale sector to liberalise the

import of Rifampicin and its intermediate Rifa-S a vital anti-TB drug to allow competition in the domestic markets.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any final decision has been taken in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard in view of sharp rise of tuberculosis cases in the country and shortage of anti-TB drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A representation has been received from the small scale sector to liberalise the import of Rifampicin and its intermediate Rifa-S.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is no shortage of Rifampicin. The decision will be taken shortly.

Call for Disabled Children

4826. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether suggestion have been made by organisations committed for setting up a separate cell for the disabled children in every Ministry/Department; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) No such suggestion is under consideration of the Ministry of Welfare at present.

Import of Wheat during 1997-98

4827. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import wheat during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details and the likely CIF rates thereof;

(c) the likely handling charges of Indian ports, transportation and transit costs etc.;

(d) the landed cost of the last distribution/liquidation point in India *vis-a-vis* the cost of Indian wheat; and

(e) the reasons for the higher prices of imported wheat than the prices being paid to Indian farmers?