

(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?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have decided to import upto 2 million tonnes of wheat during 1997-98. The STC has contracted for import of 10 lakh tonnes of wheat as per details given below:

Country	Contract Date	Qty. in lakh MT	Price per MT in US\$
Australia	26.3.97	2.50	155.00 FOB
		7.50	154.25 FOB

The average C and F rate of imported wheat would be approximately Rs. 6220 per MT.

(c) Approximate handling charges for imported wheat in Indian ports would be Rs. 167 per MT. The cost of transportation would depend on the final destination and actual cost would be known only after total despatches of imported wheat from the ports are over.

(d) Imported wheat will be added to the Central Pool stocks and will be utilised for the Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes. Sale price of imported wheat will be the same as that of indigenous wheat and would depend on the scheme under which it is issued. The landed cost of imported wheat at the distribution point will depend on the distance from the port of landing.

(e) Excluding transport, insurance, handling charges etc., the actual price which farmers in Australia get will be around Rs. 3960/- per MT. The Minimum Support Price for wheat in India has been fixed at Rs. 4150/- per MT and additional Rs. 60/- per MT is given as bonus to the farmers for 1997-98.

National Research Centre on Grapes

4828. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh had submitted any proposal for the establishment of National Research Centre on Grapes at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka offered land for the purpose. The Site Selection Team after visiting all the sites offered by these State Governments recommended Manjri Farm of Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri in Pune District of Maharashtra for the establishment of National Research Centre on Grapes. The National Research Centre on Grapes has already been established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research at Pune and research activities initiated.

State Farms Corporation of India

4829. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether primary objective of the State Farms Corporation of India is to produce and market quality seeds in the country;

(b) whether this Corporation has been suffering financial losses for the last many years;

(c) if so, the details of profit and losses incurred during each year since 1990-91;

(d) the manner in which the functions of this Corporation and the National Seeds Corporation materially differ from each other;

(e) whether the Government had ever considered the question of the merger of these two organisations;

(f) if so, the result thereof; and

(g) the primary reasons for having two separate infrastructure functioning basically for the similar objectives and activities?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The profit and loss of the Corporation since 1990-91 are as under:

Year	(Rs. in Lakhs) Profit(+)/Loss(-)
1990-91	(+) 141.62
1991-92	(+) 208.14
1992-93	(-) 603.87
1993-94	(-) 176.44
1994-95	(+) 281.67
1995-96	(+) 117.47