

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the fate of graduates from those Universities; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to recognise them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (f) Under Section 10(2) of the Dentists Act. Universities have been to apply to the Central Government for inclusion of the BDS Degree granted by them in the Part I of the schedule of the Dentists Act 1948. At present applications received from Amrawati University, Shivaji University Kolhapur are under consideration of the Government. Bomaby High Court *vide* its interim order dated 3.12.97 in Writ Petition No. 4657 of 1997 filed by some students of Shivaji University Kolhapur, has directed that provisional registration to the petitioners be granted.

Domestic Processors of Edible Oils

3978. SHRI K.P. NAIDU: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether excessive edible oil imports flooding the market have resulted in domestic solvent extraction plants plagued with excess idle capacity; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to protect the domestic processors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Domestic solvent extraction plants are working to well below their installed capacity due to shortage of oil bearing material and not due to edible oil imports. The short-fall between demand and supply is currently estimated at between 14-15 lakh MTs. Against this, the import of 11.3 lakh MTs of edible Oils in the financial year 1997-98 cannot be considered as excessive.

Strengthening the PDS/RPDS

3979. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH:

SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:

SHRI GEORGE EDEN:

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

(a) whether the Union Government propose to strengthen the RPDS in the country;

(b) whether any suggestions have been received from the State Governments to improve the PDS/RPDS a fool proof system for the relief of the common man;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government propose to constitute a monitory agency to ensure that poor families are getting the facilities of ration;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) With the introduction of Targetted Public Distribution System (TDPS) in June, 1997 with its focus on the poor in all areas the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) with its emphasis on "all in the poor areas" has become redundant.

(b) and (c) Following the introduction of TDPS various suggestions/representations were received mainly regarding the reduction in allocation of foodgrains, inadequacy of entitlement of 10 kg. per month for families below poverty line (BPL) and variation in poverty estimates. The implementation of TPDS was reviewed in a Conference of the Chief Ministers held on 30th September, 1997 and broad consensus emerged on the following issues:

- (i) The allocation of foodgrains to the States may be reviewed on the basis of their need. Additional allocations over and above TPDS quota may be made at subsidised rates applicable to families above poverty line (APL); and
- (ii) While the allocation for the BPL families may be increased, there should be no reduction in the allocation to the APL families;

The following action has been taken on these issues:

- (i) With effect from 1.12.1997 the additional allocations are being made to the States/UTs at APL prices keeping in view the availability of stocks in the Central Pool and constraints of food subsidy;
- (ii) There is no proposal to reduce allocation to APL families. The present level of allocation for BPL families is maintained in view of the constraints of stocks of foodgrains as well as the high level of subsidy involved.

(d) to (f) There is no proposal to constitute a separate monitoring agency for TPDS. But, setting up of Vigilance Committees at Fair Price Shops (FPS), Taluk, District and

State Levels has been emphasised. State Governments have also been requested to nominate the Members of Parliament on these Vigilance Committees.

Harassment by Police

3980. SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Hoax calls; now cops play the game" appearing in 'The Hindu' dated May 26, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the police personnel have been unnecessarily harassing the owners of the amusement park;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government propose to carry out a probe in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) Delhi Police have conducted a vigilance enquiry into the matter and the report is stated to be under preparation.

Border Dispute

3981. SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA:
SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU:
DR. JAYANTA RONGPI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the constant border dispute between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh and other North Eastern States, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose a tripartite Committee to resolve the long pending border dispute between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh and other North Eastern States. Madhya Pradesh and Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main boundary

disputes among the North Eastern States are:

- (1) Assam – Arunachal Pradesh
- (2) Assam – Nagaland
- (3) Assam – Mizoram
- (4) Assam – Meghalaya; and

According to available information the dispute between Madhya Pradesh and Orissa relates to 3 villages.

(c) to (e) It is understood that an agreement has been arrived at between officials of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa through bilateral discussions.

As regards boundary disputes of North Eastern States are concerned, the decisions of the tripartite Committees are not binding on the concerned States and do not therefore help resolve the issue. Therefore, it is not proposed to form tripartite Committees. However, a Boundary Commission can be set up by the Government of India if both the State Governments involved in the dispute agree to the setting up of such a Commission and further agree on the terms of reference and also that the award would be final and binding on both the States.

Constitution of a Backward Areas Development Commission

3982. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute a Backward Areas Development Commission;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be constituted;

(c) whether the Government proposed the Commission to look into the problems of Backward areas of hill districts of Uttar Pradesh in particular; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Special Central Assistance

3983. SHRI BALIRAM KASHYAP: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided Special Assistance to Government of Madhya Pradesh during 1992 to 31st March 1998;