

Maharashtra, some of the cooperative sugar, mills in Maharashtra are in critical condition.

(b) The major reason for sick sugar units in Maharashtra is non availability of sufficient cane due to draught conditions, non availability of adequate water, some administrative deficiencies in some cooperative mills, etc.

(c) As per information received from the Government of Maharashtra, the number of closed sugar mills during the last two years are as under:

Year	Number of closed units
1996-97	10
1997-98	24

As per information received from Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), there are three cases registered as sick sugar mills from the State of Maharashtra and no sick sugar mills have been registered from the state during the last two years.

(d) Government of Maharashtra had appointed a Committee under the Chalmanship of Shri Shivajirao Patil, M.P., to study the problems of sick factories and suggest remedial measures for their rehabilitation.

Government of Maharashtra is assisting Sahakari Sakhar Karkhanas for rehabilitation of sick and financially weak units in availing soft loans or rehabilitations loans. The State Government also considers proposals for rescheduling of loans taking into consideration the financial position of sick units.

Sick sugar mills have themselves to prepare schemes for rehabilitation/re-starting and get these approved by the Financial Institutions. Financial assistance is also available from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rate of interest for such rehabilitation schemes, subject to fulfilment of the conditions laid down in SDF Rules.

Voluntary Organisations

3988. SHRI M. RAJIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided funds to the Voluntary Organisations for conducting Research on Handicapped children during the last two years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 1997-98 a project entitled 'Status Study of the Disabled Children and Intervention Strategies to meet their need in General Education system' has been sanctioned to Centre for Education and Rehabilitation of the Disabled New Delhi for a period of one year.

Neelam Oil Fields

3989. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC is losing \$ 1 million a day because of its inability to stem a decline in crude oil production;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a steep shortfall in the production;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to handover the Neelam Oil Field to foreign companies on the pattern of handing over Ravva, Panna and Mukta Oil Fields; and

(d) if so, the decision proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The production from Neelam oil field has not been as per original predictions. The production has declined from a level of 90,000 BOPD in April 1995 to around 37,000 BOPD at present due to the following reasons:

(1) Change in geological model and reduction in initial oil in place have been noticed on evaluation of results of development drilling.

(2) Pre-mature break through of water and high gas oil ratios in some of the wells.

(c) and (d) The policy in regard to private participation for development of discovered fields is under consideration of Government.

Releasing of Funds

3990. SHRI PADMA NAVA BEHERA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds released by the Government for Balignda, ITDA the district of Kandhamala of Orissa are not being utilised properly over the years; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make a thorough inquiry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The Central Government releases the funds under the Central Sector/Centrally

Sponsored Schemes to the State/UT Governments, and not to the districts.

(b) Does not arise.

Harassment by BSF

3991. SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Border Security Force Posted at Indo-Bangladesh border leaves the border posts and harass bus passengers, pedestrians and traders carrying essential and non-essential commodities at Karimganj district of Assam; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to redress the grievances of the people?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir

3992. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any new action plan to eliminate the cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the detail thereof; and

(c) the details of difference from the approach hitherto adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) With a view to tackling the militancy problem sponsored from across the border, the Government have adopted a multi-pronged approach which includes *inter-alia* strengthening the border management, neutralising plans of militants by proactive action against them in hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, galvanising development programmes and deepening the democratic process etc. This is a dynamic approach which is constantly reviewed to meet the ever changing strategy of militants.

[Translation]

Economic and Overhead Cost of Wheat and Rice

3993. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA:

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

(a) the expenditure incurred per quintal on Purchase, storage and transportation of foodgrains by the FCI during 1996-97, 1997-98 and as on date;

(b) whether the economic and overhead cost of wheat and rice fixed by the Food Corporation of India has been increased during the said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether a large amount is being spent on the maintenance of foodgrains in comparison to the actual price of foodgrains;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Food Corporation of India to reduce this cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (c) The required information is given in the statement.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Statement

(a) Per quintal expenditure incurred on purchase, storage and transportation of foodgrains by the FCI from the procuring States to the consuming States during the years 1996-97 to 1997-98 was as under:

Item	Rs./per. qtl.			
	1996-97 (Prov./Actual)		1997-98 (RE)	
	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice
Purchase	525.09	689.40	624.88	750.90
Storage	11.44	14.45	17.50	17.60
Transportation	44.07	55.81	66.62	66.70

(b) and (c) The break-up of the economic and overhead cost of wheat and rice during the years 1996-97 to 1997-98 is as follows:

	Rs./per. qtl.		
	1996-97 (Prov./Actual)		1997-98(RE)
	1	2	3
Wheat			
(a) Pooled cost of grain		381.62	494.42
(b) Overhead cost			
(i) Procurement incidentals	101.96		107.69