

(d) Government is constantly endeavouring to keep the number of such pending applications to the minimum so as to provide an efficient service to the general public. Among the measures taken to expedite processing of passport applications are; computerisation of processing procedures, issue of short validity passports on basis of verification certificates in situation of emergency, fixing of time limits for completion of police verification procedure, opening of new Passport Offices and Collection Centres, enhancing validity of passports to 20 years, provision for despatch of passport by speed post wherever practical, additional staff to clear the backlog of pending cases etc.

[Translation]

Scarcity of Food in Tanzania

3109. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the former Prime Minister Shri Inder Kumar Gujral during his visit to Tanzania last year had announced to provide 1,000 tons rice keeping in view great scarcity of rice there;

(b) if so, the reasons for not sending rice in time;

(c) whether the rice supplied in April 1998 was not accepted by Government of Tanzania because it was rotten and their health department did not find this rice even fit for animals;

(d) whether this irresponsible behaviour of India was highly criticised by newspapers of Tanzania and if so, the impact on the relations between the two countries; and

(e) whether the Government propose to conduct an inquiry into it and punish the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Announcement was made in September 1997. After following the prescribed procedure, firm order was placed with MMTC on 20th November, 1997. MMTC was able to procure the rice in first week of February, 1998 and the consignment was sent on 4th March, 1998.

(c) Rice supplied in April, 1998 was not accepted by Government of Tanzania because the supplies did not meet the required standards for human consumption in Tanzania.

(d) No, Sir. It did not have any long term adverse impact on the relations between the two countries as

newspapers carrying the reports of damaged rice also carried reports that Government of India will send replacements for the rice. A message of thanks dated April 22, 1998 from the Tanzanian Minister of Agriculture and Cooperation to Acting High Commissioner of India reads as follows:

"This decision is a proof of your Government and the people of India's commitment in honouring the promise of your former Prime Minister Dr. Inder Kumar Gujral to our President Benjamin William Mkapa's appeal for food assistance when he visited our country late last year".

(e) Inquiry is being conducted by MMTC for investigating the matter.

[English]

Upper Bhadra Project

3110. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have cleared the Upper Bhadra Irrigation Project in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The Detailed Project Report of the Upper Bhadra Irrigation Project has not been received in Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Fund for Development of Command Areas

3111. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds released by the Union Government to Government of Assam for the development of Command Areas in the State under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the target fixed and the achievement made in this regard during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) The details of Central Assistance to Development of Assam under the Command Area Development Programme during the last three years:

(Rs. in lakh)		
Sl. No.	Year	Amount released as Central Assistance
1.	1995-96	62.00
2.	1996-97	—
3.	1997-98	124.00
Total		186.00

(b) Details of targets and achievements as reported by the State Government of Assam in respect of On-Farm Development Works for the last three years are as follows:

(Unit ha.)						
Item of Work	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.
Field Channels	4563	598	3050	162	1700	428
Field Drains	3767	175	2050	178	2858	520
Warabandi	2500	70	800	0	1850	815

Lokayukta

3112. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the States alongwith the dates on which the institution of Lokayukta has been functioning; and

(b) the number and nature of cases handled by the said institutions during the last three years, separately, alongwith the number of cases pending with them as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE)

(SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) According to the information available with the Department of Personnel & Training there are 13 States where the institution of Lokayukta is functioning. Their names are indicated in the Statement attached.

(b) This information is not centrally maintained as this is the concern of the concerned State Government.

Statement

Names of the States where the institution of 'Lokayukta' is functioning

S. No.	Name of the State
1.	Assam
2.	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Bihar
4.	Gujarat
5.	Himachal Pradesh
6.	Karnataka
7.	Madhya Pradesh
8.	Maharashtra
9.	Orissa
10.	Punjab (with nomenclature as 'Lokpal')
11.	Rajasthan
12.	Uttar Pradesh
13.	National Capital Territory of Delhi.

NDDB

3113. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that accounts of the National Dairy Development Board are not being audited by the CAG for long time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and