

higher rates of unemployment and underemployment. This will benefit unemployed diploma/degree holders from Agricultural Universities. This will also provide better employment opportunities to some of those who are already employed.

Consumer Protection Act, 1986

3965. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up an expert group to suggest changes in the Consumer Protection Act, 1986;

(b) if so, whether the expert group has submitted its recommendations;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (d) On the recommendations of the Cabinet Secretariat, an Expert Group had been constituted to suggest suitable amendments to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to make the Act more effective and purposeful. After considering the report of the Expert Group, a draft note has been prepared and sent to the concerned Ministries/Departments inviting their comments.

[Translation]

Activities of ISI Agents

3966. SHRI M.R. CHAUDHARI:
SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA:
SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISI agents and Pak-trained terrorists are having free access to Indian territory through Indo-Bangladesh borders situated across the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of culprits nabbed during the last three years; and

(d) the corrective measures taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) The Indo-Bangladesh border is about 4000 kms long and porous. It is very difficult to

physically man the entire border and prevent infiltration. Reports indicate the Pak ISI is using Bangladesh territory for activities directed against our security interests. We have reports of such negative elements infiltrating across the border occasionally.

(c) According to available information the number of militants arrested in the North Eastern States during 1995-97 is 3399. Some of them have been trained by Pak ISI.

(d) Institutional arrangements have been put in place with the Government of Bangladesh for dialogue and cooperation on security matters. A series of measures have been taken by the Government to curb the illegal cross border movement of insurgents. These include raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, increase in the number of outpost towers, provision of surveillance equipments, accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing. Further, State Governments of the North East have been sensitised from time to time about the activities of Pak ISI agents.

Bungling in procurement of Foodgrains

3967. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received regarding bungling in procurement of wheat and rice by the Food Corporation of India from Punjab since 1993 upto now;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the complaints regarding the quality of foodgrains from various States received and supplied to various States during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) No complaint relating to bungling in the procurement of Wheat and Rice in FCI Punjab since 1993, has been received.

(b) to (d) The Punjab Region has received 166 quality complaints covering 2.03 lakh tonnes of foodgrains out of 401.07 lakh tonnes of foodgrains despatched to various Region during 1993-94 to 1996-97. The complaints were mainly on quality of rice purchased under relaxed specifications of Government of India due to vagaries of weather. However, prompt disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against delinquent officials.