

**Article 356**

983. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to invoke article 356 of the constitution against State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Pending Cases of Provident Fund**

984. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pending cases of Provident Fund in various tribunals in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the process?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) At present here is only one Employees' Provident Fund Appellate Tribunal set up at Delhi with effect from 1.7.1997. The information showing number of cases (State-wise) pending before the Tribunal is given in the attached Statement. In order to expedite the process of disposal of the cases, the Tribunal in addition to regular hearings is also organising camp hearings in different parts of the country.

**Statement**

As on 30.4.1998

Sl. No.	State/Region	Number of Pending cases in the PF Tribunal
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29
2.	Bihar	15
3.	Delhi	03
4.	Gujarat	30
5.	Haryana	04
6.	Karnataka	02
7.	Kerala	40

1	2	3
8.	Madhya Pradesh	06
9.	Maharashtra	12
10.	N.E. Region	00
11.	Orissa	06
12.	Punjab	30
13.	Rajasthan	20
14.	Tamil Nadu	60
15.	Uttar Pradesh	11
16.	West Bengal	01
Total		269

[Translation]

**Production/Consumption of Sugar**

985. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :  
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :  
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

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

(a) the production/consumption of sugar in the country during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) whether there is a domestic shortage of sugar at present;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the sugar production to meet the requirement for PDS in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) The production/consumption of sugar in the country during the last three sugar seasons and the current sugar season 1997-98 is as under :-

Sugar Season (Oct. -Sept.)	Production	Internal Consumption (In lakh tonnes)
1994-95	146.43	119.74*
1995-96	184.29	131.72*
1996-97	129.05	137.92
1997-98 (upto 30.4.98)	121.45	79.76

\*Excluding sugar imported by private parties under O.G.L.

(b) and (c) The production of sugar in the 1997-98 season is somewhat less than the requirement in that period. However, with the carry-over stocks available at the start of the season, the aggregate availability of sugar in the sugar season is adequate.

(d) The various short term and long term steps taken by the Government to boost the sugar production in the country are as under :-

- (i) Early crushing incentive, by way or partial exemption from statutory levy, for the production in the period 1.10.97 to 15.11.97.
- (ii) Late crushing incentive, by way of partial exemption from statutory levy, for the production in the period 2.5.98 to 31.7.98.
- (iii) Providing low-interest short term loans from the sugar Development fund for purchase of inputs for improved cultivation of sugarcane.
- (iv) Providing low-interest loans from the Sugar Development Fund for projects relating to cane development and modernisation/expansion of existing sugar mills.
- (v) Graded exemption from statutory levy for setting up of new capacity for production of sugar.
- (vi) Providing of buffer subsidy from the Sugar Development Fund to sugar mills during period in which the stocks are abnormally high.

#### More Distilleries in U.P.

986. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister for CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more distilleries in view of the availability of mollasses in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the places where these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS. (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Militant Activities

987. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to curb militant activities along the Indo-Myanmar borders;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also discussed the matter at official level with that country in recent months;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken to curb militant activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) Reports indicate that there are camps in Myanmar which are being used by North Eastern insurgent groups for safe havens, sanctuary and training purposes. In order to sort out the outstanding issues on the Indo-Myanmar border, a Memorandum of Understanding (MCU) on cooperation between civilian border authorities of India and Myanmar was signed on 21 January, 1994. At the recent Home Secretary level bilateral talks, both sides stressed on the continued need for taking actions against insurgents and other negative elements operating from their soil against the other. Both sides reiterated that they do not allow their territories to be used for the activities against each other. They Myanmar side has agreed to intensify the existing contacts and communication links at the local level to facilitate action against insurgents, arms traffickers and other negative elements.

#### Purulia Arms Drop Case

988. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Inter Pol Task Force has undertaken the case of Purulia Arms drop of December, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Inter Pol will allow Indian Investigators (CBI) to go to different countries including Taiwan for investigation of the case;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Inter Pol will provide all practical Assistance to the Indian Investigators; and

(f) if so, the extent to which the assistance is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Analytical Criminal Intelligence Unit of Interpol headquarters has instituted a study of the Purulia Arms Dropping Case Code named 'Project Purulia'. Task Force of the 'Project Purulia' are