

(a) the states at present to include iodised salt in the Provision of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and 1955 because of evaporation character of iodine and other factors like sunrays and wooden platform for its storage;

(b) whether the Government propose to amend the said Act accordingly so that no prosecution except imposition of panalty is applicable as it is a natural product;

(c) if so, the time by which this Act is likely to be amended; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The standards for iodised salt have been prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 & rules, 1955 which are applicable throughout the country. The requirements of iodine content in the standards of iodised salt have been prescribed based on the advice of experts and taking into account all relevant factors.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Allocation of Rice to Manipur

4849. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice allocated to Manipur per month for the people BPL and APL since the commencement of this new system;

(b) the quantity of rice out of the allocated quantity actually transported to FCI godown at Imphal; and

(c) the manner by which the Government propose to transport the balance quantity of rice to FCI godown at Imphal without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) The month-wise quantities of rice allocated to Manipur since introduction of Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are given in the enclosed Statements.

(b) During June, 1997 to June, 1998 22,341 MTs of rice was transported to FCI godown at Imphal.

(c) FCI normally moves foodgrains stocks to Imphal godown by road mainly from its base depot at Dimapur. While allotments of foodgrains are made for the State as a whole and no appointment of quantities for FCI godown at Imphal is made by the Government of India, at times, stocks moved by FCI to Imphal are less than the desired quantities due to operational and law and order problems. As such the State Government also lifts foodgrains from Dimapur.

Statement

Quantity of Rice Allocated to Manipur under TPDS for BPL and APL Families since June, 1997 Onwards

(In Metric Tonnes)

Month	Allocation of Rice	
	BPL	APL
June, 97	760	3400
July, 97	1080	3080
August, 97	1080	3080
September, 97	1300	2860
October, 97	1300	2860
November, 97	1300	2860
December, 97	1300	2860
January, 98	1300	2860
February, 98	1300	2860
March, 98	1300	2860
April, 98	1300	2860
May, 98	1300	2860
June, 98	1300	2860

Welfare Projects of Orissa

4850. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to State:

(a) whether some welfare projects of Orissa are pending with the Union Government for approval at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard;

(d) the estimated cost thereof;

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) 122 schemes received from Non-Governmental organisations for taking up various welfare programmes being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment are pending final disposal.

(c) Reasons for delay in the timely disposal of the pending cases are mostly on account of non-receipt of full and complete documents from the organisations concerned, and recommendations/Inspection Reports from the State Governments or other designated agencies, etc.

(d) The amount of financial assistance sought by the various NGOs is Rs. 4.79 crores approximately.

(e) The Schemes will be processed for grant of financial assistance on rectification of the deficiencies in the proposals, and completion of the required formalities.

Women belong to SC/STs

4851. SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government observed any concern over the pitiable condition of women belonging to SCs/STs expressed by the National Human Rights Commission and National Commission for women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government received any report from these commissions in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (e) National Human Rights Commission have not made any specific mention of the pitiable condition of women belonging to SCs and STs in their various reports.

The National Commission for Women in its report titled 'Women of Weaker Section—Socio-Economic Development of Scheduled Caste Women' has commented on unsatisfactory condition of women in certain areas which include malnutrition, migration of Scheduled Caste women from rural to urban areas, instability and insecurity in self-employment activity. This report further states that there are hopeful signs of improvement in health, housing and education of dalit communities, such instances are comparatively fewer in agriculture and agro-based industries and the State sponsored development programme like IRDP, RLEGP, DWACRA etc. have certainly brought some awareness among Scheduled Castes in rural areas.

The Union Government have *inter-alia* provided for preference to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes women by providing loans on concessional rates for setting up self-employment ventures under the projects financed by the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation and National Safai Karamchari Finance & Development Corporation. Under the scheme of 'Assistance to Non-Governmental Organisation SC/ST women are given preference for setting up training centres, residential schools etc. Preference to women scavengers is given under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers & their dependents. The Government is also implementing a 'Special Education' Development Programme for the SC Girls belonging to low literacy levels wherein a package of inputs is given for schooling of SC girls living in districts where female literacy is below 2% as per 1981 census. A similar scheme is also being implemented for Scheduled Tribe Girls.

Petrol Pumps in Mumbai

4852. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no petrol/diesel pump on the Eastern Express Highway in Mumbai between Sion and Thane; and