

[Translation]

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**Subsidy**

1562. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK :  
 DR. SUSHIL INDORA :  
 PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :  
 DR. CHINTA MOHAN :  
 SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :  
 SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the item-wise details of visible and invisible subsidy given by the Government during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the subsidy has been increasing constantly during the above period;

(c) whether the Government have taken measures to curtail the amount of subsidy on various heads to minimise budgetary deficit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; head-wise;

(e) the impact of reduction in subsidy on the poor;

(f) whether the Prime Minister has called a meeting of leaders of all the political parties in this regard for National consensus; and

(g) if so, by when the meeting is likely to be held?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (e) Total subsidies in the Central Government are budgeted at Rs. 23838 crore for 1999-2000. The details of the subsidies are given in the Statement enclosed. The endeavour of the Central Government has been to rationalise the system of subsidies by making them transparent and effecting changes in prices of subsidised items wherever necessary. Balancing the requirements of containing the fiscal deficit and the need of protecting the interests of the vulnerable sections of the society, the Government has sought to curb the growth of subsidy on wheat and rice for beneficiaries belonging to 'Above the Poverty Line' category. Subsidy on sugar has also been reduced as a result of better targeting of subsidies.

(f) and (g) Prime Minister in a statement made at the Press Conference in Lucknow on February 3, 1999 urged all the political parties to look at the economics of subsidies in a broader national perspective with a view to evolving a consensus.

**Statement****Details of Subsidies**

(In crores of Rupees)

	Actuals 1990-91	Actuals 1991-92	Actuals 1992-93	Actuals 1993-94	Actuals 1994-95	Actuals 1995-96	Actuals 1996-97	Actuals 1997-98	Revised 1998-99	Budget 1999-2000
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A Major Subsidies	9581	9793	9414	10764	11527	12430	14041	18238	21063	22440
1 Food	2450	2850	2800	5537	5100	5377	8066	7500	8700	8200
2 Sugar								400	400	360
3 Indigenous (Urea) Fertiliser	3730	3500	4800	3800	4075	4300	4743	6600	7360	8000
4 Imported (Urea) Fertiliser	659	1300	996	782	1166	1935	1163	722	236	750

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5. Fertiliser subsidy to small and marginal farmers		385								
6. Export promotion and Market Development	2742	1758	818	665	658	318	397	420	575	630
7. Sale of decontrolled Fertiliser with concessions to farmers					528	500	1672	2596	3790	4500
<b>B. Debt Relief to Farmers</b>	<b>1502</b>	<b>1425</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>341</b>					
<b>C. Other Subsidies</b>	<b>1075</b>	<b>1035</b>	<b>1081</b>	<b>1418</b>	<b>1064</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>2323</b>	<b>1249</b>	<b>3620</b>	<b>1398</b>
8. Railways	283	312	353	412	420	388	468	526	618	710
9. Mill-made Cloth	10	15	15	16						
10. Handloom Cloth	185	187	161	174	148	126	89	64	42	40
11. Import/Export of sugar Edible Oils etc.						100		20	105	50
12. Interest Subsidies	379	316	113	113	76	34	1222	78	1436	73
13. Assistance for fertilizer promotion			340	517						
14. Other Subsidies	218	205	99	186	420	294	544	561	1419	525
<b>Total—Subsidies</b>	<b>12158</b>	<b>12253</b>	<b>11995</b>	<b>12882</b>	<b>12932</b>	<b>13372</b>	<b>16364</b>	<b>19487</b>	<b>24683</b>	<b>23838</b>

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**Export of Tea**

1563. SHRI SHANTILAL CHAPLOT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of tea exported during each of the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the said period;

(c) whether the export of tea is showing the declining trend; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?