

83

Attacks on Media Personnels

(In Million Tonnes)

83. SHRI E. AHAMED :
SHRI MOHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of attacks on media/journalists and press photographers took place in the country during each of the last years, till-date, State-wise;

(b) the number of journalists and photographers died/injured in such attacks during the said period, State-wise;

(c) the number of persons arrested and charged sheeted during the said period, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent such attacks on media journalists/press photographers?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) According to the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects. As such, the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The information sought in the question in regard to the incidents of attacks on media/journalists and press photographers is not maintained at the Central level.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Foodgrains Stocks

84. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the stock of foodgrains available in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India is more than the requirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate a scheme for its optimum utilisation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The stock position of Wheat and Rice in the Central Pool maintained by Food Corporation of India (FCI) as on 1st January, 1999, as compared to the minimum Buffer Stocking levels prescribed for 1st January, 1999, are as under :-

	Rice	Wheat	Total
Stock as on 1.1.99	11.7	12.7	24.4
Buffer Stocking norms as on 1.1.99	8.4	8.4	16.8

(c) and (d) The stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool are utilised for distribution under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS), including supply to Bhutan, armed forces, paramilitary forces and various Welfare Schemes. Depending upon the availability, foodgrains are also disposed of through Open Sale Schemes, as a market intervention measure and also for exports. A quantity of 40 lakh tonnes of wheat has been earmarked for release to States/UTs under open sale at fixed prices during the period December, 1998 to March, 1999. As procurement during current Kharif Marketing Season in much lower than last year and the stocks as on 1.10.99 will be marginally above the buffer norms, there is no open sale of rice.

[English]

204-05

Status of CIPET

85. SHRI P.S. GHATOWAR : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the status of the Central Industry of Plastic Enquiry and Technology which proposed to be established in Assam;

(b) whether any decision or clarification required from State Government is still pending;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the land for the centre has been identified; and

(e) if so, the time schedule for completion of the permanent infrastructure for the centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) to (e) The proposal for setting up of a fullfledged CIPET Extension Centre at Guwahati in the State of Assam at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.35 crores is at an advanced stage. The cost of the project is to be shared equally on 50:50 basis by the Govt. of India & the State Govt. of Assam towards capital and revenue expenditure during the project stage. Necessary budgetary provision for setting up of this Centre has been made in the budget 1998-99. The Govt. of Assam has already communicated their

consent to meet 50% of the project cost. CIPET has informally inspected three sites in and around Guwahati. One site will be finalised in consultation with the local authorities. The project is expected to be completed within three years from the date of handing over of the land to CIPET.

Vidharbha State 205

86. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL ;
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations for the creation of separate Vidharbha State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) Representations have been received for the creation of a separate State of Vidharbha from various organisations, such as, Maharashtra State Indira Congress Committee (Tiwari), Mumbai; Vidharbha Sangarsh Parishad, Nagpur and Vidharbha Rajya Congress Kriti Samiti, Nagpur. A representation from certain Members of Parliament and prominent leaders has also been received.

[Translation]

Creation of New States

87. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid down for creation of new States;

(b) whether the demand to give Statehood to Andaman and Nicobar Island has been made since long;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to give Statehood like Delhi to Andaman and Nicobar;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be accorded; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (e) At present, the Government is considering only those cases for grant of Statehood where the concerned State Legislatures have passed resolutions recommending the creation of new States.

There has been a demand for grant of Statehood to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. However, keeping in view strategic, economic and other considerations, it is not proposed to alter the existing status of this island territory at this stage.

[English]

Detection of Human Skulls in Mumbai

88. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT ;
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of human skulls found in Mumbai in January, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have set up any enquiry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of findings of the committee?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

White Paper on ISI Activities

89. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to issue a white paper on the terrorist activities of ISI in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have ascertained the States where ISI terrorism exist;

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

(e) whether any terrorist groups is receiving any help for terrorist activities from ISI;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken on the borders to check the infiltration of terrorists from other countries?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) A 'White Paper' is being prepared on the terrorist activities of Pak ISI in the country.

(c) and (d) Activities of Pak ISI have been noticed in J&K, Punjab, certain North-Eastern States and certain other parts of the country where modules of ISI have been unearthed from time to time.