

Government in the ratio of 75:25. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has stated that it has spent Rs. 202.18 crore as on 31.12.98 on these schemes. Out of this amount, Central Government has released approximately Rs. 166 crore.

(b) and (c) While no such assurance has been given to Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Udyog Sangathan, the Government of India effort is to provide relief and justice to the Bhopal gas leak victims.

[Translation]

### Price of Imported Commodities

1983. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of imported wheat, rice, pulses and edible oil etc. after adding all the administrative and other expenses is more than the procurement price of these items fixed for farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) It is not possible to accurately compare the cost of imported agricultural products and the domestic procurement prices thereof fixed for farmers as they would depend on demand and supply position, consumer preferences, different varieties traded and other terms of trade.

[English]

### Standards of Indian Science

1984. SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADORA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the declining standards of Indian Science;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the major science policy decision taken at various high level meetings are not communicated to the working bench level scientists; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Views have been expressed at different forums indicating that there has been a decline in basic research in science and technology during the last few years. However, in the field of Science & Technology, India has made significant achievements during the last five years in sectors like Agriculture, Atomic Energy, Space, Biotechnology, Ocean Development, Industrial Research, Biomedical Research, Computer Science etc.

(c) and (d) Most of the high level meetings involved in the policy decision making include working bench level scientists/academicians/technologists from the National labs, Universities and Institutes of Higher learning. In industry oriented R&D areas like Biotechnology, Drugs & Pharmaceuticals, Technology Development, instrument Development etc. The representatives from the relevant industry sector also participate in the decision making exercise. The National Science Academies, the Academy of Engineering and other similar active S&T Professional Bodies also play an important role in disseminating the policy decisions to the working bench level scientists. In addition, the scientific Journals also play an important role in communicating issues related to S&T Policy.

[Translation]

### Sugar Mills in Bihar

1985. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJIHARPUR): Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of sugar mills operating under the Sugar Corporation in Bihar;

(b) the number of sugar mills facing closure in the State;

(c) the reasons for their closure;

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for revival of these sick mills;

(e) whether the Government propose to modernise some of the mills in the State;

(f) if so, the details thereof, mill-wise; and

(g) the time by which this scheme is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) As on 31.1.1999, there were 15 sugar mills under the Bihar State Sugar Corporation Ltd. All these 15 sugar mills have not worked during the current 1998-99 sugar season (October-September).

(c) to (g) The closures could be due to variety of factors such as inadequate cane availability, unviable size, obsolete plant and machinery, technical and managerial incompetence, excessively high cane price not commensurate with sales realisation, financial crisis and many other factors. Sugar mills have themselves to prepare schemes for reopening rehabilitation modernisation and get them approved by the Financial Institutions.

Financial assistance is also available from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rate of interest for cane development and rehabilitation modernisation schemes, subject to fulfilment of the conditions laid down.

*10* *Wildlife*  
**Use of Animals in Circuses**

1986. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether after decision of the Supreme Court delivered in December 1998, lions, tigers, bears and other animals cannot be put to work in the circuses;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that more than 400 animals working in circuses are on the verge of starvation as a result of the said decision of Supreme Court;

(c) if so, whether Kendriya Prani Sangrahalaya Pradhikaran have also refused to take these animals into their custody; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by the Government to save these animals from starvation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) No such decision has been delivered by the Supreme Court. The application of Indian Circus Federation vide Civil Misc. Petition No. 12015/98 in C.W.P. 890/91 in High Court of Delhi, praying for staying operation of notification dated 14.10.98 of

Government of India prohibiting exhibition or training of Beers, Monkeys, Tigers, Panthers and Lions as performing animals has been dismissed by the High Court of Delhi vide Order dated December 16, 1998. According to the direction of the High Court in the above order, the Govt. of India has already made payment for the upkeep of the animals in the member circuses of the Indian Circus Federation for two months. The Question of surrender of animals by the circuses is yet to be decided by the High Court of Delhi.

Employees of seven individual Circuses have obtained interim stay from the High Court of Kerala on the operation of notification dated 14.10.98 mentioned above. the Govt. of India has initiated action to take over the animals from circuses and their rehabilitation, as and when the final Orders of High Court of Delhi and High Court of Kerala are delivered.

[English]

*10-2* *Act 19*  
**Amendments in Section 498-A of IPC**

1987. COL. SONA RAM CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend section 498-A of the Indian Penal code by making the offences under it non-bailable; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the likely date by which such an amendment is likely to be brought in the House?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The offence under Section 498-A IPC is already non-bailable.

*110-119* *Monument-3*  
**Installation of Dr. Ambedkar Statue, FCI, Trivandrum**

1988. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India have received any memorandum seeking permission for installation of the Statue of Dr. Ambedkar at FCI, Regional Office Trivandrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof: and