

**Festival of India** 269

2065. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to hold "Festival of India" in Foreign countries;

(b) if so, the last "Festival of India" held in abroad and in India; and

(c) the place and time when next "Festival of India" is likely to be held?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Last Festival of India was held in Thailand during 1995-97. Festival of Thailand in India was held in August-September, 1997.

(c) The exact time and place for the next Festival of India is yet to be decided.

**Issuance of Work Permit** *Bangla desh 269*

2066. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issuance of work-permit to Bangladeshi nationals for temporary jobs has been cleared by the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation] 21/ST/10/62 259-70

**Govari Castes of Madhya Pradesh**

2067. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Govari Caste of Madhya Pradesh, living below poverty line is likely to be included in the list of Scheduled Castes;

(b) if so, whether Govari Caste has been included in the list of Scheduled Castes in other States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No Sir. We have received no such proposal.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

[English] 270

**Welfare Programme for Women**

2068. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of assistance/aid provided to the various voluntary organisations for Welfare programmes for women during 1996-97 and 1998 to Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra;

(b) whether some proposals received from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan are pending for approval;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the approval is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, SPORTS, WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House. 271-79

[Translation] Agriculture

**Procurement Centres in Madhya Pradesh**

2069. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of paddy rice and wheat procured in Madhya Pradesh during each of the last two years;

(b) the number of procurement centres opened, location-wise during the said period and the expenses incurred thereon;

(c) the excess quantum of foodgrains available in the States at present;

(d) whether any State level scheme has been formulated to procure foodgrains in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) Information is as under:—

(In lakh tonnes)

Marketing Season	Wheat	Paddy	Rice
1997-98	1.07	6.23	6.06
1998-99 (As on 5.3.99)	5.31	2.34	2.53

(b) A *Statement* showing number of purchase centres opened during 1997-98 and 1998-99 marketing seasons is attached.

Paddy and wheat are directly procured from the farmers by different procuring agencies in different districts. FCI deploys its staff for procurement from its existing strength. Centre-wise details of expenditure for these agencies are not readily available.

(c) Madhya Pradesh is not a surplus State in foodgrains as foodgrains have to be allotted to the State from the Central Pool.

(d) and (e) Government of India have recently decided to implement the scheme of decentralised procurement of foodgrains in Madhya Pradesh from the Rabi and Kharif Marketing Season 1999-2000. Under this system, the State Government will procure foodgrains to meet its PDS requirements and subsidy will be passed on to the State Government instead of to FCI.

### **Statement**

*Number of Purchase Centres Opened during 1997-98 and 1998-99 in M.P.*

Year	Commodity	MPSCSC/MARKFED	FCI	Total
1997-98	Paddy	2287	—	2287
1997-98	Rice	—	65	65
1997-98	Wheat	767	69	836
1998-99	Paddy	2186	—	2186
1998-99	Rice	—	61	61
1998-99	Wheat	739	155	894

[English]

### **Increase in Age of Superannuation**

2070. SHRI RAM KRISHNA BABA PATIL:  
SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have rejected the proposal of the Delhi University for raising the age of superannuation of non-teaching staff; and

(b) 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) The benefit of enhanced age of retirement of 62 years is applicable only to the teaching staff in the Universities/Colleges and also to such of the non-teaching staff as enjoyed parity with teachers in respect of pay and other service conditions and whose age of superannuation prior to the revision was 60 years.