

of additional prizes for scientific achievements, etc. While on-going programmes already accommodate many recommendations made by the Science Congress, new initiatives taken by the Government have also taken note of these recommendations.

65-66

Institutes for Disabled

*18. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to State :

(a) the details of the welfare schemes for the disabled under implementation at present;

(b) the details of Institutes opened for the welfare of disabled, state-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to open more such institutes in the States during the next two years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The schemes for the disabled under implementation at present are mentioned below :-

- (i) Scheme for financial assistance for self employment and entrepreneurship development to persons with minimum disability of 40% through National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDC).
- (ii) Centrally sponsored scheme for employment of handicapped in which funds are given to State Governments/Union Territories for running special cells in normal employment exchanges or special employment exchanges for physically handicapped.
- (iii) Schemes for assistance to Disabled persons for purchase/fitting of aids/appliances.
- (iv) Schemes for assistance to voluntary organisations for disabled persons, establishment and development of special schools, rehabilitation of leprosy cured persons, persons with cerebral palsy and mental retardation for manpower development. However w.e.f. 20.1.99 these schemes have been merged under "Scheme to promote Voluntary Action for persons with Disabilities".

(b) The following institutes have been opened for the welfare of disabled :-

- (i) National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, U.P.
- (ii) National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta, West Bengal.
- (iii) Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- (iv) National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh.
- (v) National Institute for Rehabilitation, Training and Research, Olatpur, Distt. Cuttack, Orissa.
- (vi) Institute for Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A proposal for setting up of National Institute for Multiple Handicapped, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, is under consideration of this Ministry.

[Translation]

66-68

Expenditure on Handling of Foodgrains by FCI

*19. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the economic and overhead cost of foodgrains fixed by the Food Corporation of India has been increasing constantly during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent during the said period year-wise, foodgrain-wise;

(c) the estimated amount likely to be spent during the current years;

(d) the reasons for constant increase in such expenses; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the administrative and handling charges?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) to (c) The break-up of the economic cost and over head cost of FCI for wheat and rice during the years 1995-96 to 1998-99 is as

follows :-

	1995-96	1996-97 Prov./Actual	1997-98 (RE)	1998-99 (BE)
Rs./Per Qtl.				
Wheat				
(A) Pooled cost of grain	351.04	390.73	497.02	517.05
(B) Overhead Cost				
(i) Procurement incidentals & carryover charges to State Agencies	120.31	134.37	127.86	136.00
(ii) Distribution Cost	112.60	115.06	175.62	154.90
(C) Economic Cost (A+B)	583.95	640.16	800.50	807.95
Rice				
(A) Pooled cost of grain	581.38	627.99	686.75	743.98
(B) Overhead Cost				
(i) Procurement Incidentals	54.10	61.41	64.15	65.50
(ii) Distribution cost	127.34	158.29	189.50	170.88
(C) Economic Cost (A + B)	762.82	847.69	940.40	980.36

(d) The acquisition costs have increased mainly due to increase in the pooled cost of grains as a result of increases in the Minimum Support Price/naked cost of grains, as also ad-valorem increases in statutory charges and switch over to 50 kg. gunny packings. The distribution costs have increased on account of freight increases and increases in handling costs, because of pay revision, progressive departmentalisation of labour.

(e) The following important steps have, inter-alia, been taken/are being taken by the FCI to reduce/contain these costs :-

- (i) It has been decided to appoint a consultant to go into the ways of reducing the economic cost of FCI.
- (ii) FCI is trying to achieve average capacity utilisation of 75% to reduce storage cost even though the procurement of grain is seasonal.
- (iii) The procurement and movement ratio is being adhered to the norm of 1:1.35 as fixed by the Govt. of India to reduce the expenditure on freight.
- (iv) Continuous efforts are being made to reduce shortages in handling of foodgrains.
- (v) Efforts are also being made to reduce the incurrence of Railway demurrage charges.

(vi) Excess stocks are being released in the open market at prices above the Central Issue Price (CIP).

(vii) FCI is trying to control the Administrative cost by following a ban on recruitment of resultant entry level posts and has been reducing its staff strength around 800 persons yearly.

[English]

SPOR (15) 68-69

Medals won by India

*20. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of medals won by India in the recent Asian Games;

(b) whether the Government are satisfied with the performance of the sports; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage sports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) India won 35 Medals (7 Gold, 11 Silver & 17 Bronze) in the Asian Games held at Bangkok