

into the following two categories:

- (i) Lotteries organised by the Government of India or the Government of a State under Entry 40 of List I—Union List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India; and
- (ii) Lotteries organised under Entry 34—Betting and gambling—of List II—State List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.

2. So far as lotteries under the first category are concerned, the Central Government has already enacted The Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998. Lotteries organised by the private individuals, institutions, organisations, etc. are covered under the second category. The State Governments are competent to authorise such lotteries. However, a proposal to impose a comprehensive ban on the lottery trade in the country is under consideration.

Ban on the Outflow of Crude Oil by ULFA

*183. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "ULFA 'bans' crude oil outflow" appearing in the *'Asian Age'* dated February 5, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ULFA—a banned outfit—has demanded stoppage of exploration of new oil fields in Assam and announced a 4-point oil blockade programme, viz., obstruction to drilling of new oil fields; resistance to pumping out of oil to places outside Assam; ban on construction of pipelines and drillings on private or public lands; and resistance to any forcible drilling work.

(c) The State Government and the Oil industry have been advised to tighten security and take necessary precautionary measures.

Assistance for Education of Handicapped

*187. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes which are in operation for the benefit of handicapped;

(b) whether there are any special schemes for providing education to the handicapped boys and girls;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government received any special proposals from the State Governments regarding special allocation of funds in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) No Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Statement

(a) The Scheme in operation under this Ministry for the benefit of the disabled are (i) Assistance to disabled persons for purchase/fitting of aids and appliances; (ii) Assistance to Voluntary organisations for the welfare of the disabled; (iii) Assistance to Voluntary organisations for establishment and development of Special Schools (iv) Assistance to voluntary organisations for rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Persons; and (v) Assistance to Voluntary organisations for Manpower Development in the field of Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation. However with effect from 20.1.99 the schemes at (ii) to (v) have been brought under one comprehensive umbrella Scheme to promote voluntary action for persons with disabilities. Besides, Department of Education (under Ministry of Human Resource Development) has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC).

(b) and (c) The Central Sector Scheme under this Ministry for the establishment and development of Special Schools envisages financial assistance to voluntary organisations upto the extent of 90 per cent for

establishment of Special Schools in four major disability areas—Orthopaedic, Speech and hearing, visually and mentally retarded children. Both recurring and non-recurring expenditure is supported under the Scheme. During 1996-97 and 1997-98, an amount of Rs. 0.78 crore and Rs. 1.33 crores have been disbursed to 26 and 38 organisations respectively for this purpose.

The Department of Education (under Ministry of Human Resource Development) is also implementing the Scheme of Integrated Education for disabled children. Under the Scheme 100 per cent financial assistance is provided for the education of disabled children which includes assistance towards books, stationery, uniform, transport allowance etc. Assistance is also given for setting up and equipping resource rooms with aids and assistive devices. At present, this Scheme is being implemented in 27 States/UTs through nearly 15000 schools.

[Translation]

Price of Pulses

*188. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:
SHRI CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "pulse set to go onion way, as farmers switch crops: chamber" appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated February 9, 1999.

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the price rise and to make the pulses easily available to the consumers at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement showing Statewise production of pulses during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 crop years is enclosed.

(c) For increasing the production of pulses, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is being implemented to provide support to the farmers. Under the scheme, financial assistance is given to States on various inputs like production and distribution of certified seeds, seed minikits rhyzobium culture, micronutrients sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, plant protection equipment etc. Besides, field demonstrations and farmers' trainings are also being organised for the effective transfer of improved pulses production technology.

(d) Apart from long-term measures to increase the production of pulses, import of pulses has been placed under Open General Licence (OGL) at zero import duty in order to augment the availability of pulses in the country. These steps are likely to result in checking the steep rise in the prices of pulses.

Statement

Production of Pulses

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (Likely)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	838.0	575.1	691.0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.7	6.6	N.A.