

1	2	3
---	---	---

- |     |   |  |
|-----|---|--|
| 18. | Gramin Samajothan Sewa<br>Sansthan, Lucknow   | Forged recommendatory letter of<br>State Government. |
| 19. | Akhil Bhartiya Samaj Kalyan<br>Evam Mahila Vikas Seva<br>Sansthan, Distt. Maharajganj | —do—   |
| 20. | Shri Ma Durgajee Grameen Seva<br>Sansthan, Sant Kabir Nagar                           | —do—   |
| 21. | Manava Kalyan Seva Sansthan,<br>Lucknow.  | —do—   |

## WEST BENGAL

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Haldia Samaj Kalyan Parishad,<br>Midnapore.     | Complaint received. Under<br>investigation. |
| 2. | Seulipur Udayan Club,<br>Bhagwanpur, Midnapore. | —do—  |
| 3. | Satya Bharti, P.O. Nbagram,<br>Hooghly.         | —do—  |
| 4. | Bhagra Diamond Club                             | Adverse Inspection Report.                  |
| 5. | Shishu Manzil, Calcutta.                        | —do—  |

[Translation]

**Export of Onion**

\*192 DR. SUSHIL INDORA: Will the Minister of  
FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to  
state:

(a) whether the Government have recently allowed  
the export of onion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the agencies allowed to export onion  
alongwith quantity thereof;

(d) whether any assessment of the price of onion  
has been taken into consideration before deciding the  
export of onion; and

(e) if so, the present price of onion in the country  
and the price after allowing the export of onion?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS  
AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

(SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (c) The ban on export of onions was certainly lifted on 21.1.99 by allowing export of Bangalore Rose onion and Krishnapuram onion as well as export of 3000 MTs of onions to Sri Lanka on a Government to Government basis. Subsequently Government on 9.2.99 decided to permit the export of 25,000 MTs of onions per month for the next three months through the agencies to be designated by the Government of Maharashtra or by the Associate Shippers registered with the designated agencies.

(d) The lifting of ban on export of onions, subject to a quantitative ceiling, was to ensure that onion growers get remunerative prices for their produce and also to prevent large quantities of export so as to keep the prices and availability of onions at reasonable levels in the country.

(e) The wholesale prices of onion at Nasik, which is the major producing centre, were in the range of Rs. 251 to Rs. 411 per quintal on 1.2.99, declined to Rs. 150 to Rs. 331 per quintal on 1.3.99. The decline in prices even after lifting of ban on export of onion could be due to large scale arrival of fresh onions in the market from producing areas.

[English]

#### **Amendments to Laws concerning Women**

\*193. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered the recommendations of the National Commission for Women regarding the amendments to various laws concerning women including the Dowry Prohibition Act to make them more stringent and effective,

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the women particularly in dowry cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, SPORT, WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of National Commission for Women regarding amendments to laws concerning women

are under process in consultation with various Ministries and Departments of Government of India and State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

(c) According to the provisions contained in the VIII schedule of the Constitution of India, 'Police and public order' including crime against women is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Government of India has issued instructions to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations regarding appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officer and setting-up of Women's Cells in Police Stations. The Department of Women and Child Development is also implementing a programme of information and mass education to generate public awareness about various issues concerning women including the evil of Dowry to prevent atrocities on women. Assistance is being given to Voluntary Organisations for organising camps for creating awareness amongst rural and poor women about various issues concerning women including Dowry etc.

#### **Rural Libraries**

\*194. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National workshop on Rural Libraries and information centres under Panchayati Raj has been organised by the Centre for Rural documentation at National Institute of rural Development (NIRD) Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details of the agenda discussed and the recommendations finalised for consideration; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken for strengthening and expanding Network of Rural Libraries rejuvenating the rural information system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) to (c) Libraries is a State subject. The National Institution of Rural Development, Hyderabad an autonomous body of this Ministry took initiative and held a National Workshop on Rural Libraries and Information Centres in September 1998. The details of the agenda discussed and the recommendations finalised are at Statement-I and II respectively. The recommendations of the National Workshop are of a recommendatory nature only. Implementation of the recommendations is left to the discretion of the State Governments.