

- (3) The allocation of imported edible oils to States/U.Ts. is meant to be supplementary in nature and adjusted according to flush/Lean season.

Report of Wage Boards for Working Journalist and Non-Journalist Employees of Newspapers

*111. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Wage Boards for the Working Journalist and non-journalist newspaper employees have submitted their reports;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay;

(c) the time by which the reports are expected to be submitted; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to grant further extension of time to the Wage Boards for submitting the reports, if so, the details thereof together with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). After prolonged deliberations and hearing, the concerned interests, the Wage Boards for Working Journalists and Non-Journalists Newspaper employees finalised and published their tentative proposals in August, 1988, inviting comments. Accordingly they have received comments in this regard and since then Boards have given hearings to the employees and employers on the comments of their proposals and now the Wage Boards are holding meetings so as to finalize their recommendations. The terms of the Wage Boards have been extended upto 31.3.1989. The Boards regulate their own procedure in connection with their work, however, Chairman of Wage Boards has assured that he will submit the final report by 31.3.1989.

News item "Poor Nations Face Food Emergency"

*112. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news-item captioned "poor nations face food emergency" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 16 January, 1989 calling for global efforts to avert drought, environmental destruction and other human-induced climate changes which threaten to undermine the future of humanity;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether any steps are contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India are aware of the dangers which drought, environmental degradation and human induced climate changes can pose to food security. However, the regional impacts of climate changes in various parts of the world, particularly regarding agriculture, have not been quantified. India is actively participating in international efforts to study the cause for the global climate change, the impacts and the possible response strategies.

(c) The steps taken by the Government of India to meet the situation include the following:

- i. Survey and protection of forests, afforestation programmes and wasteland development.
- ii. Soil conservation, protection of watershed areas, anti-desertification measures and protection of the quality of land.

- iii. Conservation of water and prevention and control of water pollution.
- iv. Prevention and control of air pollution.
- v. Measures for the development of non-conventional energy sources.
- vi. Measures for conservation of energy; and
- vii. Participation in international efforts to meet the situation.

Mobile fair price shops

*113. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether mobile fair price shops are operating in hilly and inaccessible areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of mobile vehicles

provided to each State under the scheme; and

(d) whether schemes have been drawn up to expand the existing network of mobile fair price shops in adivasi areas of the country, particularly in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d) The States/UTs have been advised from time to time that mobile vans may be introduced to provide greater accessibility to the consumers residing in hilly, remote, far-flung, desert, tribal and inaccessible areas. According to the information received from the States/UTs, 342 mobile fair price shops were operating in different States/UTs as on 30.9.1988. Government of Gujarat has intimated that out of 21 mobile vans being operated by them, 18 are functioning in the tribal areas of the State for distribution of essential commodities.

Under the Central Plan Scheme, financial assistance has been provided to different States/UTs, as per details given below:-

Financial Year	State/U.T.	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)	Number of vehicles
1	2	3	4
1985-86	1. Andhra Pradesh	6.00	3
	2. Assam	5.29	3
	3. Bihar	16.73	12
	4. Madhya Pradesh	37.00	20
	5. Orissa	22.00	11
	6. Rajasthan	8.00	4
	Total	95.02	53
1986-87	1. Assam	15.68	8
	2. Bihar	12.50	5
	3. Manipur	19.00	4