

Contingency plan for drought

***394. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any contingency plan has been drawn by the Centre to meet the situation arising out of the possible failure or weak monsoon season in the country, this year;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether States have been advised to reschedule the credits advanced to farmers, payment of compensation to them and retention of agricultural subsidy and Minimum Support Price, in the light of the drought-like situation in the country; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (d) Contingency Plans to deal with droughts are made by State Governments. Central Government supplements the efforts of States to implement these Plans and to offer other supplementary assistance. For this purpose, various Departments of Central Government connected with provision of such assistance have identified action points and are in touch with the State Governments. Government is also in touch with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in the matter of granting relief to loanee farmers. State Governments have also been asked not to resort to coercive measures in realization of dues and to also grant requisite relief to farmers wherever it is within their competence to do so.

Central Schools in Himachal Pradesh

***395. SHRI ANIL SHARMA:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal for opening of more Central Schools in Mandi, Kullu, Bilaspur and Una districts, in view of the pressing demand from serving/retired army personnel in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken/propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c) As informed by KVS, the Government of Himachal Pradesh had recommended opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas in the districts of Mandi, Kullu, Bilaspur and Una among others in relaxation of norms applicable for opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas which could not be considered by the KVS due to the non fulfillment of the norms. However, in the academic session 2002-2003, one Kendriya Vidyalaya at Sainj, NHPC, Parbati Project, Kullu in Project Sector has been sanctioned.

Dowry deaths

*396. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dowry deaths have been increasing continuously in each State/Union Territory during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to educate the public to contain the menace?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) As per the statistical data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, the number of reported cases of dowry deaths in the country as a whole is as follows:

S. No.	Year	No. of dowry death cases reported
1	2000	6995
2	2001	6530*

*provisional figures

A statement showing the number of incidents of dowry deaths reported in the country, State and Union Territory-wise, during the years 2000 and 2001 is attached (*See below*).

(c) For sensitising and educating the people about the menace of dowry, the Government is implementing programmes like 'Awareness Generation Programme' through the Central Social Welfare Board. The