

(a) whether the Central Bureau of investigation has made any inquiry into the huge losses suffered by the Food Corporation of India during transit from the Ramnagar godown at Silchar;

(b) if so, the actual amount of losses suffered by the FCI so far in this regard;

(c) whether some FCI officials have been identified as being responsible for these losses;

(d) if so, the details of such officials and the total period during which they remained posted at the Silchar depot; and

(e) the action Government have taken or propose to take against those officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Questions do not arise.

De-reservation of Minerals

*146. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE; Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for de-reservation of all the minerals now reserved for the public sector, to facilitate investment by N. R. Is; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALARAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government are reviewing the position to examine Whether some minerals now reserved for the public sector should be de-reserved.

Education Bank

*147. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS;
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 617 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 231h February, 1992 and state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are pursuing the policy of self financed higher education;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to arrange soft loans from banks for the poor/ and middle class students, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the girl students of lower classes would be given concession in fees; and

(d) whether Government have received any suggestions directly or through media to start Education Bank?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The Government's policy on financing of education is spelt out in the National Policy on Education, 1986 (NPE), which postulates that "Resources, to the extent possible, will be raised by mobilising donations asking the beneficiary communities to maintain school buildings and supplies of some consumables, raising fees at the higher levels of education and effecting some savings by the efficient use of facilities. Institutions involved with research and the development of technical and scientific manpower should also mobilize some funds by levying a cess or charge on the user agencies, including Government departments, and entrepreneurs. All these measures will be taken not only to reduce the burden on State resources but also for creating a greater sense of responsibility within the educational system".

(b) Commercial Banks are already providing need-based finance under the "Educational Loans" scheme.

(c) Elementary education is free in all Government and Government aided schools. In most States, secondary education is free for girls in all Government and Government aided schools.

(d) There has been a suggestion to this effect.

Drought/Famine in the country

*148. SHRI RAJUBHAI A.
PARMAR: SHRI
MURLIDHAR
CHANDRAKANT
BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the toll of human life caused by drought and famine in different States like Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tripura etc. during this year, including those caused by malnutrition and epidemics; and

(b) the central aid given to different States hit by drought and famine?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) No toll of human life caused by starvation on account of drought and famine in the States like Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tripura, etc. has been reported by the State Governments. No reliable and complete data concerning deaths on account of malnutrition or epidemics in different States are available with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The National Institute of Communicable Diseases, New Delhi, who recently carried out a survey have reported 71 deaths in Tripura due to diarrhoeal diseases.

(b) The State Governments who submitted memoranda seeking central assistance for undertaking drought relief measures in the current year have been released the

following amounts of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund during 1992-93:—

Slate	Amount (Rs in crores);
1. Gujarat	63.750
2. Karnataka	10 125
3. Kerala	17 438
4. Madhya Pradesh	20.813
5. Maharashtra	33.000
6. Manipur.	0.375
7. Rajasthan	46.500

Plan for National Capital Region

*149. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for which the plan for National Capital Region could not take off; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) National Capital Region Planning Board was constituted in 1985 for harmonised and balanced development of the National Capital Region, Regional Plan-2001 for the National Capital Region has been notified for implementation on 23-1-1989. There has been gradual development of NCR according to the approved Regional Plan could not be undertaken on account of inadequate budgetary provision for infrastructure provision and land development, as well as difficulties in decentralising various activities from Delhi.

(b) As part of VIII Plan strategy for urban development the Government has envisaged the following measures for the accelerated and balanced development of the NCR in concert with concerned Central Ministries and State Governments;