The Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993, issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, aims at checking blackmarketing of PDS kerosene. It stipulates that the dealers cannot sell PDS kerosene at a price higher than the price fixed by the Government or Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and that the PDS kerosene dealers should prominently display stock-cum-price board at the place of business including the place of storage. State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in black-marketing and other irregularities. The Government has also taken a number of additional initiatives *viz.*, tamper proof locking system, monitoring of movement of Tank Trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS), canalization of import of kerosene etc.

Fees for obtaining of ISI certificates

*310. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that present charges/fees for obtaining ISI certificates are very high for the small industries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that micro industries are not in a position to pay such high fees for obtaining ISI certificates;

(c) whether Government has any plan to reduce or abolish fees for ISI certification for at least Micro/SSIs for promotion of their business; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The present charges/fees for obtaining ISI certification for the small scale industries are not high. Minimum marking fee is worked out by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) based on the actual expenses likely to be incurred by it in the operation of a licence which includes cost of development of standards, administrative overheads, cost of market samples, testing charges, cost for investigations etc.

(b) With a view to encourage certification activities in small scale sector and to reduce the burden on account of low volume of production, BIS is giving a lump sum concession in minimum marking fee to the units registered as small scale industry for obtaining BIS licence.

(c) BIS has not raised its fee for last three years. At present, there is no proposal to reduce fee or exempt Micro, Small or Medium Enterprises from payment of such fee.

(d) Question does not arise.

Agricultural Census

*311. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of agricultural censuses conducted by Government so far;

(b) the total amount spent on conducting agricultural censuses;