

[1 March, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI HUKUM DEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The information is
being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Relief and rehabilitation of victims of Gujarat Earthquake

173. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian People's Tribunal on Environment and Human
Rights, which inquired into the relief and rehabilitation work for Gujarat
earthquake has passed severe strictures on the functioning of the Gujarat
Government for its apathy and discrimination against the minority community
in carrying out the relief and rehabilitation programme;

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

(c) what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Ministry of Agriculture
have not received any such report. The distribution of relief on ground is the
responsibility of the State Government.

Subsidy for wheat and paddy producing countries

† 174. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that America and other wheat and paddy producing
countries of the world are giving such amounts of subsidy for their agricultural
produces which are violating the conditions prescribed by the World Trade
Organization;

(b) if so, the details of Government's information in this regard;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have provided such information to the officials of World Trade Organization and requested them to take action in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The WTO Agreement on Agriculture mandates disciplines in the areas of Market Access, Domestic Support and Export Subsidies. Through an established procedure of annual notifications, Members indicate the implementation of their commitments under the Agreement on Agriculture. As there is a time lag in filing these notifications in the WTO, the final compilation of implementation of commitments is not complete as yet. The implementation of these commitments is also reviewed by Members in the regular Committee on Agriculture meetings of the WTO. India has been in the forefront in demanding that implementation related concerns of the developing countries regarding the WTO agreements should be resolved satisfactorily. The implementation concerns broadly relate to inequities and imbalances in the existing WTO agreements, non-realization of anticipated benefits from the WTO agreements and the non-operational and non-binding nature of most of the Special and Differential (S&D) provisions in favour of developing countries. The implementation related concerns were highlighted by India through its proposals, which were co-sponsored by 11 other like-minded group of countries. After the Doha Ministerial Conference, these issues have become an integral part of WTO work programme.

Fisheries training and extension units

175. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of fisheries training and extension units sanctioned since 1998 all over the country and the amount released in this regard to various States, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether Karnataka Government has requested for such units; and

(c) if so, the number of units sanctioned to the State?