

State Governments may provide whatever inputs they want to. They can provide that. But, under the Special Rice Production Programme, a special assistance is given to marginal farmers, the small farmers. Those provisions are there. At present, I do not have those figures here. If the hon. Member puts a separate question, I can supply those figures.

Sale of Aluminium Phosphide

*516. SHRI NARSING SURYAWANSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether aluminium phosphide which is highly toxic to human being and is licensed for sale only to storage warehouses in the country, its tablets are being sold freely in the open market; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The use of the Aluminium Phosphide is, because of toxicity, restricted to storage warehouses. The sale of Aluminium Phosphide can be made only to following:—

- (i) Government departments;
- (ii) Government Undertakings; and
- (iii) Organisations like ware-housing Corporations and Food Corporation of India.

(b) The Question does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI NARSING SURYAWANSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it appears from the reply of the hon. Minister that it is restricted to storage and Warehouses and it is sold through Government Departments. But there are complaints that it is available in the open

market. Is there any machinery in the Ministry to look to it and ensure that it is not sold in the open market and is not causing any harm to human life. May I know from him as to what machinery is there in the Ministry for this purpose, how many times he has checked it and how many cases of this nature have come to his notice.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Sir, as I have said in my reply that as per the provisions of the law, it is exclusively meant for the safety of foodgrains stored in godowns. It is sold only to Government undertakings, Government Departments, Warehouses, Corporations and is being used by them. It is not for sale in the open market. A constant watch is being kept on its sale in the open market and for this purpose, substantial changes have been made in the rules. There are provisions in Section 27 of Insecticide Act, 1968 which can effectively deal with it. I think that there is no provision of sale of this item in the open market and not even on the licence. However, action will be taken in case any such thing is brought to the notice of the Department.

[English]

Special Zones to Promote Food Processing Industries

517. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop certain special zones to promote food processing industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any State-wise survey has been conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries has no such proposal.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given as much disappointing a reply important the question is.

MR. SPEAKER: There must be some comparability. The refusal should be as strong as the question is.

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA: India is primarily an agriculture country and in view of large potentials of agriculture based industries, the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi has set up a separate Food Processing Ministry and through it some concrete initiatives have been taken in respect of the setting up of agriculture based industries. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he has prepared any schemes to give incentives in view of the various agro-climatic zones in the country. The hon. Minister may please give us information in this regard.

[English]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: First of all, the hon. Member has put a very straight question and I will give him a very straight answer. Now, there are special export zones in the country. And anybody who would like to utilise those zones for food processing industry or packing industry, is welcome to do so. We do not have to create new zones. What we are doing from the Central Government's side is that we have formed six nodal agencies all over the country. We have divided the country into six nodal agencies and we are coordinating with the State Governments and helping them and encouraging them so that they come up with a single window clearance agency in their own State so that people who are interested in the food processing industry or the packing industry will have the opportunity of not going through so many Ministries in the State Governments and ultimately, people getting fed up with that any saying that they

do not want that.

Now coming to part second of the question, to encourage food processing and packing industry, Government has come out with lots of concessions and incentives. I have got the whole list of it and I will just read out a few of them and I quote: "Exemption from income for the purpose of computation of income tax 33 1/3 percent of income derived from poultry farming; reduction in excise on parts of refrigerated appliances and machinery as well as compressors used in refrigerated vans meant for transportation of food and dairy products from 40 percent to 15 percent". This is a very important sector which will ultimately help the farmers. Specially people from the North-east would be very happy about it. Because recently, we have started this packing of concentrate of pineapple which the tribal farmers used to sell at ten paise or five paise and ultimately used to throw it out. Today, with my Ministry coming in and the Prime Minister having the vision of looking after the interest of the farmers, we are buying the same pineapple at Rs. 2.00 per piece from the farmers directly on which they used to get five paise or ten paise. And the whole country is tasting the pineapples which are brought from Tripura region or the North-Eastern region. This is one of the biggest achievements. There are many proposals on which foreign collaboration is coming up... *(Interruptions)* Let me speak please. I will answer to you one by one. We have brought 13 more food processing equipments under concessional rate in the food processing and packing industry. Excise duty on skimmed milk powder and condensed milk is reduced from 15 to 10 percent and excise duty on certain food preparations of fish, meat, tapioca and sago in metal containers is reduced from 15 percent to 10 percent. There are so many things. I can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA: I am thankful to the hon. Minister and I request him that a list may be submitted to me for detailed study and further processing... *(Interruptions)* I also deserve to get the list.

My second question is whether Government of India have received any proposal from the entrepreneurs for setting up some food processing industry from Madhya Pradesh, if so, how many have been cleared so far?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: The Madhya Pradesh Government has forwarded certain proposals formulated by the Madhya Pradesh Finance Corporation where entrepreneurs have been approaching them, for food processing industry which needed financial assistance from my Ministry. At present the Corporation has put forth 32 proposals in which loans amounting to Rs. 572.55 lakhs have been sanctioned; but they are yet to be disbursed. Some of the projects proposed pertain to confectioneries, potato wafers and chips, peanut butter, groundnut flour, dehydrated/processed foods and vegetables.

MR. SPEAKER: It is okay. You can give him the list.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The National Horticulture Board was set up by the Government four or five years back for the purpose of helping farmers and industrialists to set up fruit and vegetable processing industries, to provide technology and to provide loans. It appears that no work so far has been done by this National Horticulture Board. It is a very important body set up for food processing. We don't even know whose baby it is a present, whether it is under Agriculture Ministry's charge or under the new Food Processing Ministry's charge.

MR. SPEAKER: You chaired it, I think

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I fathered it. That is why I feel concerned.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I think it is a community project.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Would the Hon. Minister please inform the House as to whether any progress has been made by this

National Horticulture Board and who is looking after it?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I am very much keen to adopt this baby. I am trying my level best to persuade the Agriculture Ministry to give it to me so that I can look after it and see that results come out of it.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Let the baby not die between two mothers.

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA: We are very much thankful to the nature. In Madhya Pradesh in Amarkantak area there is a greater growth of mushrooms with minimum efforts by the farmers. In Raigarh district tomatoes are grown in very large quantity with minimum efforts. Is there any proposal or survey by the Central Government to survey or give any technological assistance to farmers to get their price and have facilities from the Food Processing Ministry? Has any survey been made with regard to these proposals pertaining to the agricultural produce? For your information, in the railway platforms you would see that these things are sold in buckets at very cheap rates.

MR. SPEAKER: It is okay. He can consider it.

Study Centres of Indira Gandhi National Open University

*518. **SHRI UTTAM RATHOD:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total enrolment in the Indira Gandhi National Open University this year; and

(b) the number of study centres set up for the benefit of the students in different regions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI): (a) and (b). According to the infor-