

[Translation]

Non-Availability of Insecticides

*231 SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN
SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding non-availability of insecticides to the farmers in time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure timely supply of insecticides to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Question does not arise.

(e) The major steps taken by the Government are given below:

- (i) Union Department of Agriculture and Cooperation assesses the pesticides requirement with the States/UTs before Kharif and Rabi season every

year. This helps in advance planning of production and import of pesticides.

- (ii) Pesticides are made available to the farmers through a wide network of 1,20,118 distribution points operated by the States Deptt. of Agriculture (5858), Cooperatives/Agro Industries (28948) and the Private trade (85312).

[English]

Theft of Coal from Wagons

*232. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of theft of coal from wagons in the country, particularly wagons being sent to the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any investigation has been conducted into such cases during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d). The details regarding theft of coal from wagons in transit and action taken against the culprits after investigation for the last three financial years are given below: