

and Wasteland Development Programmes also help to mitigate the adverse impacts of droughts and floods.

[English]

Spurious Seeds and Pesticides

*27. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether spurious seeds and pesticides under certification of MARKFED are being marketed to farmers through co-operatives in several States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a Central machinery to control the sale of sub-standard agricultural inputs to the farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b). Seeds and Pesticides are not subjected to certification by MARKFED. The State of Karnataka has reported cases of six samples of Malathion 5% D.P. being marketed by MARKFED to be mis-branded. In all cases, prosecution proceedings have been initiated.

(c) to (e). The Central machinery is already there in the form of Central Seed Committee and Central Seed Certification Board for the purpose of protecting and regulating the quality of seeds; likewise Central Pesticide Laboratory at Faridabad with inspecting staff to aid and assist the

State machinery in food-proof testing of the quality and also booking the culprits who resort to adulteration and prosecuting them as per legal provisions; Fertiliser Quality Control Laboratory with its inspecting staff to aid and assist the State machinery in protecting and regulating the quality of fertilisers as per standards laid down and for Machinery BIS and Central Regional Farm Machinery and Trading and Testing Institute at Budhi are the agencies for ensuring the quality for bigger machinery like Tractors, Thrashers, etc. and the State level Technical Committee is there to ensure the quality of the smaller machinery and in case of any doubt, they take the help of the Central Institute at Budni. There are various Legislative provisions having been enacted to ensure quality of agricultural inputs.

Production of Foodgrains

*28. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI BOLLA BULLIRAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of growth in the production of foodgrains is expected to rise during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof as compared to last year;

(c) the estimated production target of foodgrains fixed for 1994-95 and expected to be achieved at the end of the year, foodgrain-wise; and

(d) the steps taken for the effective storage of excess production of foodgrains?