

Seizure of Edible Oils

*394. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat had seized all the edible oils from the possession of NDDB in April, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government objected to the action initiated by the State Government;

(c) if so, the main objections raised by the Union Government;

(d) the quantum of edible oils seized by the State Government from the NDDB godowns;

(e) whether this has resulted in a downward trend of edible oil prices in the market;

(f) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to see that the future capability of not only NDDB, an apex body for market intervention operations (MIO) authorised by the Centre but other such Central Government bodies is not affected as a result of the raids conducted by the Gujarat State Government's Civil Supplies Department; and

(g) the total edible oil available in the godowns of NDDB at present after the seizure?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) The Government of Gujarat seized 22,119 MT of edible oils stock from the godowns of NDDB located at Kandia, Rajkot, Jagudan and Anand on 4th, 5th and 6th April, 1995.

(b) to (d). The edible oils stocks of NDDB were within the stock limits permissible under the edible oilseeds and edible oils (Storage Control), Order, 1977 issued by Ministry of Civil Supplies as amended on 27.5.94 and 30.6.94. Under this storage control order, the stock limits for the domestic oil was fixed at 7700 MT for NDDB and the stock of the imported vegetable palmolein oil were exempted from the purview of the storage control order, 1977. The stock of 22,119 MT of edible oil, of which 16,963 MT of imported palmolein and 5156 MT of domestic oil were within the stock limits imposed by the Government. Therefore, the Government of Gujarat was requested to release the stock of edible oil of NDDB immediately.

(e) There is no report on any significant price variation in the edible oil market.

(f) Market Intervention Operations (MIO) of NDDB came to an end on 31.3.94. NDDB is now marketing Dhara brand of edible oils on its own account on commercial basis.

Union Ministry of Civil Supplies has further amended the storage control order, 1977 on 6th April, 1995 under which all the corporations of the State and the Central level cooperatives have been exempted from the stock limits imposed under the edible oilseeds and edible oils (storage control) order, 1977. The Union Ministry of Civil Supplies has also given instructions to State Governments that the provisions of Essential Commodities Act and control order should not be used to harass traders and cooperatives for minor discrepancies etc;

(g) At present NDDB has about 26,250 MT of edible oil in its godown in Gujarat which includes both imported as well as domestic edible oil.

[Translation]

Drip Irrigation

*395. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN :
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) the details of the action taken so far by the Government to provide drip irrigation technology to the farmers of drought prone areas;

(b) the financial assistance provided under the scheme for these areas during 1994-95, State-wise;

(c) whether such assistance is being provided equally in all parts of the country;

(d) if not the reasons therefor; and

(e) the estimated number of farmers who availed of this facility during 1993-94 and 1994-95, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Promotion of use of plastics in Agriculture" covering *inter-alia* promotion of drip irrigation technology in the country, including drought prone areas, at a proposed outlay of Rs. 200 crores during 8th Plan Period. The scheme provides for assistance for installation of drip irrigation systems on the farmer's fields, laying demonstrations in Government farms and training in the use of this technology.

(b) The financial assistance provided under the scheme to various states during 1994-95 is indicated as per Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d). No Sir, the allocations differ on the basis of the potential for adoption of drip irrigation technology and the level of awareness about the technology in each State/UT.

(e) The state-wise information about the exact number of farmers who have availed the facility during 1993-94 and 1994-95 is being collected.