

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The fertilizers are imported to bridge the gap between the assessed demand and the indigenous availability. The precise quantity of fertilizers to be imported during the year 1991-92 has not yet been firmed up fully.

(c) and (d) The capacity utilization of the fertilizer plants in the country during 1990-91 has been 85.7 per cent in the case of nitrogen and 74.5 per cent in case of phosphate. Some of the plants could not achieve their full production capacity due to variety of factors including equipment break-down, interruption in power supply, unhappy industrial relations and less import of raw materials and intermediates.

[*Translation*]

#### IRREGULARITIES IN PURCHASE OF RICE

274. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about the irregularities committed by the officers of Food Corporation of India in the purchase of rice in Bareilly division of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) Food Corporation of India has reported that a pseudonymous telegraphic complaint was received by them on 28-4-91 about the alleged acceptance of rice having broken grains ranging from 30 to 40 per cent at Bareilly and Shahjahanpur centres of Bareilly District of Food Corporation of India. However, even before receipt of the above, squads of the FCI Hqrs., on routine surprise checks during the January and February, 1991, found levy rice stock procured in Bareilly Dist. of FCI not conforming to the laid down uniform

specifications in respect of moisture content, broken and dehusked grains.

(b) The District Manager, FCI, Bareilly, has been suspended, charge-sheeted and disciplinary proceedings against him are in progress.

#### PESTICIDE MENACE

276. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a serious concern about pesticides menace the world over; if so, the steps proposed towards finding effective and alternative technologies for agriculture and health sectors;

(b) whether many pesticides are implicated in causation of cancer and other health problems as brought out by various studies at Indian Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow for the past two decades; and

(c) the names of Institutes/Units engaged in finding alternatives to pesticides in Agriculture and Health sectors and their yearly budget ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) Yes Sir; harmful pesticides are banned and replaced by newer and safer ones from time to time. Towards this end, new technologies are developed indigenously and also through foreign collaboration.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### NEWS ITEM CAPTIONED "RADIO-ACTIVE MATERIAL IN IMPORTED PHOSPHATIC FERTILISERS"

277. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem