

(c) whether it is a fact that the Maida tested at Shillong had also absorbed Tricresyl Phosphate from contact with contaminated mustard oil; and

(d) whether enquiry has been made to find out if the flour bags had during transit or storage somewhere soaked some liquids containing Tricresyl Phosphate?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) and (b). The sample drawn by the Pasteur Institute and the Public Health Laboratory, Shillong, from the flour bags marked No. CT (FF)51617 were found to be positive for tricresyl phosphate.

The samples of flour from bags marked CT(FF) 52201 which were stored in the same godown as the flour marked CT(FF)51617 were not found to be contaminated on examination by the Pasteur Institute and the Public Health Laboratory, Shillong whereas bags of flour with the same number at Malda (West Bengal) were found to be contaminated with tricresyl phosphate when examined by the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta. Apparently the bags of flour marked CT(FF)52201 stored in the godown at the Chottapukhuri Catholic Mission School in Darrang had escaped contamination.

(c) No.

(d) The enquiry is still going on to locate the source and place of contamination.

Adsali Plantation

2316 { **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:**
Shrimati Jamuna Devi:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total area under Adsali plantation in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, factory-wise, for the season 1960-61, 1961-62; and 1962-63;

(b) the sugar content of Adsali cane of 1961-62 season in above factory

areas and how does it compare with figures of Maharashtra's Adsali;

(c) whether reduction of time between harvest and crushing of cane in sugar factory would improve recovery;

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to reduce it;

(e) whether there is any incidence of pests in Adsali cane in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh; and

(f) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to eradicate this menace?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) There is no Adsali planting in Madhya Pradesh. In Bihar Adsali planting has been taken up, as an experimental measure in Samastipur Factory area. Exact Adsali planting acreage figures for 1960-61, 1961-62 and 1962-63 are not available at present.

(b) Since adsali planting has not yet been taken up in general cultivation either in Bihar or Madhya Pradesh, the question of comparison of figures of sugar content of adsali cane with those of Maharashtra does not arise at present.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Following steps are being taken for quick movement of sugarcane from field to factory:—

- (i) Construction of pucca roads in sugar factory areas,
- (ii) Provision of pneumatic tyre carts on subsidised basis, and
- (iii) Grant of loans for laying tram lines in sugar factory areas of Bihar.

(e) It is too early to expect this information as Adsali cultivation in Bihar has been taken up only recently and on an experimental basis.

(f) Does not arise.