

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) The Labour Ministers' Conference recommended amendment of Factories Act, 1948 to include suitable provisions to deal with safety in hazardous industries. The Conference also recommended that penalty for continued violation of safety regulations in hazardous industries should be compulsory imprisonment.

(b) and (c). The State Governments have been advised to set up Task Forces/Committees to identify the hazardous industries in their areas and make details of the same available to the organisation of DGFASLI who would thereafter prepare a common list of hazardous industries.

(d) Government have formulated educational Plan of Action with a view to reduce accidents as well as the occupational health hazards. This Plan which is to be implemented by employers, employees, State Governments/Union Territory Administrations envisages adoption of safety and health accidents reduction measures in all enterprises which are identified as hazardous units, setting up of a safety control cell in the States and workers involvement in schemes on safety and prevention of health hazards.

Bio-gas Technology

2031. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether biogas technology is not catching up fast enough due to failure of ICAR's R&D effort;

(b) how do India's biogas technology and production compare with those of China; and

(c) steps taken to step up R&D efforts in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) No, Sir. It is not

right to say that bio-gas technology is not catching up. India is the second largest country using bio-gas technology in the World and Indian Council of Agricultural Research has given sufficient R&D support in this area. As a matter of fact it was ICAR's pioneering work that helped India in exploiting bio-gas technology on a large scale.

(b) Our bio-gas technology compares well with that of China. It may be mentioned that since 1981-82 bio-gas installations in the country have been almost doubling every year.

(c) The Government of India have created the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources which is now the nodal Department for bio-gas technology. In their programme, bio-gas technology has been priority. They have a National Project on Bio-gas Development. ICAR is operating a Coordinated Scheme on Renewable Energy Sources and a multilocation Operational research scheme on energy and nutrient management in agriculture where bio-gas technology is a key component.

Financial aid to States for Pest Control Schemes

2032. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre is to fund Haryana Pest Control Scheme for "White grub" and if so, details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that most pests are airborne and affect crops across States and national borders; and

(c) whether Government propose to give similar financial aid and support to all such pest control schemes for all the States including Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central

Government has issued administrative approval to Government of Haryana for control of white Grub pest during 1985-86 under the Scheme "Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Control and Eradication of Pests and Diseases of Agricultural Importance, including Weed Control in Endemic Areas". The Administrative Approval issued is for central share of subsidy to the extent of Rs. 11.75 lakhs to cover an area of 10,000 ha. for control of White Grub. Under this Scheme, for the component 'Control of pests of agricultural importance' subsidy is available to the States at the rate of 50% towards the cost of pesticides and Rs. 15/- per hectare for ground operations, to be shared equally by the Central Government and State Government concerned. In the case of Union Territories, full cost of subsidy is met by the Central Government.

(b) Yes, Sir, Most of the pests are migratory in nature. The locust is an acknowledged pest of agriculture and migrates from one country to another covering the vast stretches of desert from West Africa to India and Turkey to Tunisia during plague cycles. Locust problem has been brought under control by international efforts based upon national and regional efforts which are continuously co-ordinated by the FAO of the United Nations. To ward off the risk of introduction of other exotic pests and disease, plant quarantine regulations are strictly enforced in the country as per the provisions of Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914.

(c) The subsidies under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Control and Eradication of Pests and Diseases of Agricultural Importance, including Weed Control in Endemic Areas, are available to all the States and Union Territories for the control of approved major and endemic pests, diseases and weeds on specified pattern of assistance subject to the availability of funds and subject to the approved conditions of this Scheme.

During 1985-86, administrative approval for control of White Grub in the States of Gujarat and Rajasthan has also

been issued. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought the Central assistance only for pests of rice crop; and administrative approval has already been issued for covering 53333 hectares involving Central share of subsidy amounting to about Rs. 16 lakhs.

Mechanisation of Milk Production

2033. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are satisfied with the progress made in the mechanisation of processes for manufacture of indigenous milk achieved by our R&D units (Econ. Times 10 July, 1985);

(b) the processes to manufacture indigenous milk based products in the country where mechanisation has been found possible and details of the machines created by our R&D units which are in wide use in the country;

(c) when was the Khoa machine first designed and made available to the public and how many of these machines are in use commercially; and

(d) the details of manufacturers and whether any patent has been taken on it and if so, the royalties earned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Mechanisation processes for the manufacture of Khoa, chhana, shrikhand and gulabjamun have been developed by the National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal and National Dairy Development Board, Anand. The machines in wide use are vacuum pans and multiple effect evaporators for khoa making and those for shrikhand and gulabjamun.

(c) and (d). The khoa machine was first designed in 1968 and the design and