

(b) whether major portion of agricultural products in the country is eaten by these rats; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in future to check increase in the populations of rats ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. K. PANJA): (a) and (b). No systematic/comprehensive studies have been carried out to estimate the number of rats and the quantum of agricultural products eaten by them.

(c) The Ministry has undertaken research and development as also extension work to control rats so as to minimise losses to stored foodgrains.

The research and development work is done at the Indian Grain Storage Institute and includes (i) the testing of several rodenticides for their efficacy, (ii) development of rodenticide mixtures and (iii) testing of bait preferences, keeping in view the safety and quality of such grains for human consumption.

The extension work is carried out through 17 Central Save Grain teams located in different parts of the country. The Central teams organise demonstrations and training in selected villages in order to propagate rat control measures like destruction of rat harbourages, trapping, and use of rodenticides and fumigants.

The Food Corporation of India and Central Warehousing Corporation also use rate poisons to control rats wherever necessary.

[English]

Reductions in Foreign Equity by Multi-National Drug Companies

6320. SHRI HARI KRISHNA HASTRI : Will the Minister of INANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that multi-national drug companies while reducing the equity, disposed of their shares in a separate manner among Indian shareholders;

(b) the names of the multinational drug companies which reduced the foreign equity from 1978 onwards; and

(c) the percentage of shares given to financial institutions and Indian shareholders separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Spinning Mill in Tripura

6321. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Tripura have submitted any proposal to the Union Government to set up a spinning mill in Tripura;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether the Union Government are aware that the yarns required for 1.2 lakh metres of handlooms in Tripura are met by importing yarns from other States; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to provide funds for setting up a spinning mill in Tripura for removing the difficulties which the handlooms are facing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b). A letter of instant No. 1125 (1985) dated 24.10.1985 for establishment of a spinning unit consisting of 25,000 spindles for the manufacture of cotton yarn has been issued to M/s. Tripura Apex Weaving Cooperative Society Ltd., Agartala.