

available by SAIL to IISCO for the specified use. Since the Annual Plan of IISCO for 1984-85 and 1985-86 did not have provision for such construction activities, the steel bars were not utilised by IISCO. To avoid qualitative deterioration of the material due to continued storage, IISCO disposed off 3040.12 tonnes by sale and utilised 481.48 tonnes internally for various purposes. The balance 150.4 tonnes are in stock with IISCO.

IISCO has decided that the total quantity disposed off by sale as well as used internally would be manufactured at IISCO and the entire quantity would be kept separately for utilisation for construction of houses for workers in mines in the future.

Government has decided to cause an enquiry to be made in this matter. Further action, if necessary, will be taken based upon the results of the enquiry.

[Translation]

**Production of pepper in Uttar Pradesh**

5802. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a farmer has produced the World's longest, large and high yielding plant of pepper in Almora district in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, when this achievement was made; and

(c) whether the achievement has been suitably rewarded ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). It has been reported that Shri Kishan Chandra Joshi of Almora district in Uttar Pradesh has grown the tallest chilly plant in 1986.

(c) The scientists of Vivekanand Parvatiya Kriishi Anusandhan Shala, Almora

and G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar have collected the planting material and are evaluating its performance. They are of the opinion that the chilly plant grown by Shri Kishan Chandra Joshi is not of much genetic or economic value. Hence no award has been given to Shri Joshi by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research.

**Damage to crops due to weed lentana**

5803. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'Kuri' weed (Lentana) causes damage to the crops as well as forests in the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, area of agricultural, grassy and forest land in hectares on which the weed has spread and the annual damage caused by it;

(c) whether Central assistance is proposed to launch a drive to destroy this plant; and

(d) if not, the alternative measures taken to destroy this plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Parts of Deccan, Coorg and Nilgiris, lower hills of Western ghats: Bhabar tract around Haldwani; outer skirts of Dehradun in U. P.; Chhota Nagpur in Bihar and the neighbourhood of Shillong in Assam are the areas affected by this weed.

Exact estimate of the area affected is not available and would require a detailed survey involving huge costs and effort. The results thereof may not be commensurate with the costs and effort involved.

(c) Since this is not a weed of agricultural importance, no assistance is being extended by the Ministry.