

[English]

**Electrification of Sitarampur-Patna-Mughal Saral Line**

884. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of the electrification work of Sitarampur-Patna-Mughal Saral section;

(b) the steps taken to complete the work within stipulated time; and

(c) the time by which the total section is likely to be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) (a) and (b) The works are in progress on Sitarampur-Jhajha section. Sitarampur-Jamtara is likely to be charged by March, 95. The works of Sitarampur-Jhajha section is planned for completion in June, 96. Tenders for OHE contract for Jhajha-Mughalsaral section are under process. The works are being monitored constantly.

(c) Subject to availability of resources, the work is targeted for completion by March, 1999.

**Demand and consumption of Tobacco**

885. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have interacted with tobacco sector to assess domestic demand and consumption of tobacco;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an acute shortage of tobacco is anticipated in the next year;

(d) if so, whether ICAR has made any plans to assist the farmers so that the production of tobacco could be increased; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM)

(a) & (b) Tobacco Board of Ministry of Commerce consults exporters, trade and domestic cigarette industry about the requirements of Flue Cured Virginia Tobacco (FOV Tobacco) while planning for FOV tobacco crop size every year.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) With the release of high yielding varieties coupled with appropriate production technology developed by Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI), average productivity has increased from 728 kg./ha. in 1957-58 to the level of 1390 kg./ha. in 1992-93. CTRI is supplying guaranteed pure seed of improved tobacco varieties.

[Translation]

**Distributorship of Dhara Oil**

886. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by the Government for the distributorship of Dhara Oil in the Delhi region under the National Dairy Development Board;

(b) the number of applicants out of them belonging to Scheduled Caste Community;

(c) the names of applicants who were sanctioned distributorship;

(d) the names of applicants who have not yet been given distributorship even after the clearance of their applications alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which distributorship is likely to be given to these applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) (a) to (e) National Dairy Development Board is marketing Dhara brand of edible oils through their fruit and vegetable outlets and through the dealership network of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) who have been appointed as their sole selling agent for the distribution of Dhara brand of oils in the whole country.

Since the discontinuation of market intervention operations of oilseeds/edible oils from 31st March, 1994, National Dairy Development Board is marketing Dhara brand of edible oils on its own account.

During 1994, three applications for distribution of Dhara oils were received for Delhi region by this ministry including one application from S.C. candidate and the same have been passed on to NDDDB.

**Agriculture Science Centre**

887. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) whether representations have been received from Members of Parliament for establishment of an agriculture science centre in Raj Nagar under the Madhubani district of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether land, buildings and other facilities such as roads and railway lines are available in Raj Nagar;

(d) if so, the reasons for not establishing the agriculture science centre in Raj Nagar; and

(e) the time by which the agriculture science centre is likely to be established there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL OF ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shri Bhogendra Jha, M.P. (Lok Sabha) vide his

D.O. letter No. 12992 dated 28.5.92 had sent a proposal for establishing an Agriculture Science Centre in Raj Nagar under the Madhubani district of Bihar to the Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) & (e) An Agriculture Science Centre has been sanctioned for village Chandpura—Basaita under Madhubani district. Proposal for another Agriculture Science Centre in the same district can not be considered for the present.

[English]

**"Effect of Detergents on river water"**

888. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Detergents se jal Pradooshan peene layak nahin rahega nadiyon ka pani' appearing in the Rashtriya Sahara (Delhi) dated November 11, 1994;

(b) if so, whether the Government have ordered to conduct any survey in this regard to the effect of detergents on water/river waters;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

(d) whether the Government propose to ban the production of such hazardous detergents forthwith;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the effective measures taken by the Government to check water pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Pollution Control Board has commissioned Industrial Toxicological Research Centre (ITRC), Lucknow to conduct a study of the life cycle analysis of detergents in the surface water and the effect of detergents on them. The terms of reference for the study include:

(i) Testing of biotic and abiotic (aerobic and anaerobic) degradation of main active ingredients (LABS & AOS) by the various biodegradation tests and development, calibration, standardisation of the method ideally suitable for India in terms of simplicity, cost, suitability to be done by various medium level laboratories, time etc.

(ii) Life cycle Analysis on LABS and AOS, in terms of environmental dynamics and kinetics i.e., persistence, degradation, biomagnification and acute and chronic toxicity of original product and degradation intermediates to various aquatic species. Rapid assessment of surfactant residues in environmental compartments, water and sludge in selected areas.

(iii) Preparation of a comprehensive document on environmental safety of detergents and recommendation for standard criterion tests and surveillance.

(d) & (e) The initial results of the study do not justify immediate banning of the production of chemicals used in the detergents.

(f) The effective steps taken by the Government to check water pollution include:

(i) The Government have already notified the criteria for soaps and detergents for ecomark;

(ii) Schemes have been initiated to give assistance to small scale industrial units for effluent treatment and adoption of clean technology;

(iii) Network of water quality monitoring stations have been set up;

(iv) Environmental Audit has been introduced in order to encourage waste minimization and recycling of wastes;

(v) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

**Mahila Samridhhi Yojana**

889. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:

KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:

SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL:

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of savings accounts opened and the amount deposited under 'Mahila Samridhhi Yojna' till the 15th October, 1994. State-wise;

(b) the total amount payable as interest against the amount deposited during the above period;

(c) whether any lacunae and malpractices on the part of postal employees in operating this scheme have come to the notice of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to plug the loopholes and eliminate malpractices in implementing the MSY scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI): (a) & (b) A statement showing total number of accounts opened alongwith amount deposited under Mahila Samridhhi Yojana (MSY) statewise till 31.10.1994 is annexed. An incentive at the rate of 25 percent is payable on the amount (maximum of Rs 300/-) deposited for a lock-in period of one year. In case any amount is withdrawn after a month of deposit before the completion of one year lock-in period, interest at the rate of 12 percent is payable. The actual amount of incentive and interest payable on these accounts would depend upon the duration for which each deposit remained in the account.

(c) to (e) Irregularities in three post offices have come to the notice of the Department of Posts. In Junagarh Division in State of Gujarat 6 accounts have been opened in the name of minor girls of 17 years of age. In Dhorakinaon branch in the State of Maharashtra, one woman has opened two accounts in two different names,