

has been taken in regard to guidelines issued by the Ministry for regularisation of encroachments taken place over forest land.

Washing Soap

230. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether suppliers of washing soaps to the Super Bazar had applied for increase in the rates consequent upon the imposition of excise duty on washing soap in the 1994-95 budget;

(b) if so, the details thereof, supplier-wise, and the amount of increase asked for by each supplier;

(c) whether the suppliers requested the enhanced rates after the withdrawal of the excise duty on the washing soap;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether the rate was brought down to the same old rates, and if not, the reasons therefor, supplier-wise; and

(e) how did the above position tally with the Kendriya Bhandar?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes Sir,

(b) Details as furnished by the Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar are given below:—
Super Bazar

S.No.	Name of Supplier	Amount of increase asked
1.	Gora Mal Hari Ram	10% on the existing price
2.	Moti Soap Factory	—do—
3.	Khanna Soap Factory	—do—

Kendriya Bhandar

S. No.	Name of Supplier	Amount of increase asked
1.	M/s. Moti Soap Factory	Rs. 0.75 per Kg.
2.	Ms. Mittal Enterprises	Rs. 0.75 per Kg.

(c) Super Bazar has reported that the suppliers have reduced the enhanced rates after the withdrawal of Excise duty, except in case of Gora Mal Hari Ram which continued to pay excise duty being in power sector.

Kendriya Bhandar has also reported that the suppliers withdrew the increase stating that the excise duty had been removed.

(d) Super Bazar has reported that the increase of excise duty was subsequently withdrawn in case of Khanna Soap Factory and Moti Soap Factory. Rates were accordingly brought down except in case of Gora Mal Hari Ram, because this firm continued to pay excise duty in power sector.

Kendriya Bhandar has also reported that increase on account of excise duty was withdrawn by the suppliers.

(e) As stated in the part (b), (c) and (d) above.

[*Translation*]

Bio Fertilizers

231. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to take some steps to boost the use of bio-Fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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) and (b): Yes, Sir, In addition to the present scheme of National Project on Development and use of Bio-fertiliser, the Government is contemplating to take steps to boost the use of Bio-fertiliser through the proposed Technology Mission on Bio-fertiliser, under which financial assistance is proposed to be given to the State and well established Organisations for setting up of Bio-fertiliser Production Unit for production of Bio-fertiliser and for organising training and demonstrations.

Price Stickers

232. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the shop-keepers charge high rates of goods-packets from the customers after sticking desired stickers of price indication which are available in abundance in the market;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to ban on putting of such stickers to protect the interests of the consumers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and proposal to take any other steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) The relevant provision under the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977, related to affixing of separate label to after declarations, including the price, made by the manufacturers/Packers, on a pre-packed commodity have already been withdrawn with effect from 26th August, 1993 in the interest of consumers.

Sugar Mills

233. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the production capacity of Sugar mill in the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the extent to which production capacity has been raised during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) the actual production made by these mills and the number of letters of intent issued for setting up of new sugar mills during Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise; and

(d) the number of applicants to whom licences were issued?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The installed capacity of Sugar Mills of the country at the end of Seventh Five Year Plan (1985—1990) i.e., on 30.9.90 was 93.413 lakh tonnes.

(b) During the Eighth Five year Plan (1992-93 to 1996-97) i.e., upto 31.1.95, 154.8641 lakh tonnes of capacity has come into production making a total installed capacity of 118.2541 lakh tonnes.

(c) and (d) The actual production during 1994-95 of the new mills & the sugar factories expanded during the 8th Plan (upto 31.1.95) was 11.23 lakh tonnes. As on 31.1.95, 74 letters of intent have issued for setting up of a new sugar mills in country during the Eighth Five Year Plan, The State-wise position is given below:—

Sl. No.	State	No of letters of Intent issued
1.	Haryana	4
2.	Uttar Pradesh	25
3.	Madhya Pradesh	2
4.	Gujarat	2
5.	Maharashtra	17
6.	Bihar	1
7.	Orissa	1
8.	Andhra Pradesh	15
9.	Karnataka	5
10.	Tamil Nadu	2
Grand Total:		74

[English]

Unidentified Shrimp Disease

234. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an unidentified disease in coastal districts particularly in Andhra Pradesh has caused considerable loss of production of fish shrimp;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government against its recurrence;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide compensation to the affected farmers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

There has been some loss of shrimp production due to the outbreak of the disease in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) About 22660 ha. of brackishwater area has been estimated to be affected by the spread of this unidentified disease in shrimp. The exact causative factor for the outbreak of the disease is yet to be identified. However, some of the common diseases which cause loss of shrimp production include white spot disease and necrosis disease.

(c) Some of the remedial measures contemplated by the Government against the recurrence of the disease include:

- i) Regulation of shrimp culture by Govt. of Andhra Pradesh through a legislation.
- ii) Advising the farmers to have a crop holiday and take up shrimp farming only towards the end of May or beginning of June, 1995.
- iii) Drying the pond bottom for 2-3 months.
- iv) Allowing natural flushing of the waste from the shrimp ponds.
- v) Incorporation of an Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan and waste water treatment system for reducing the adverse impact of aquaculture on the environment.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Since the outbreak of is not classified for assistance under natural calamities, there is no proposal to provide any compensation to the affected farmers, as in the past.

[Translation]

Prices of Vegetables

235. DR. SAKSHIJI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of vegetables registered a steep increase during the last several months;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for the increase; and

(c) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to bring down the prices of the vegetables?

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) and (b) No, Sir. Owing to the comfortable supply position, prices of almost all the vegetables, by and large, maintained an easy trend during the last several months.

(c) For ensuring supply of vegetables to consumers at reasonable prices, the Government has undertaken both short-term and long-term measures. The short-term measures include the sale of vegetables at fixed prices by the National Dairy Development Board, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation and Super