

—Hydrocracking Technology for Mathura Refinery.

—Identification of alternative strategies for environment management in consultation with Asian Development Bank.

Cases Under Courts

1227. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB
TOPE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received some proposals from the Consumer Education and Research Centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Recently Government have received a few suggestions from the Consumer Education and Research Centre suggesting some amendments to the Consumer Protection Act. These suggestions have been referred to the Working Group which has been constituted under the aegis of the Central Consumer Protection Council, to suggest suitable amendments to the Act.

National Seeds Corporation

1228. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of the major contributions made by the National Seeds Corporation in the agriculture sector during Eighth Plan Period?

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): It may be mentioned that the National Seeds Corporation (NSC) Limited, a public sector undertaking under the administrative control of this Ministry, was established in March, 1963 under the Companies Act, 1956. The objectives for which the Corporation was established was to produce and distribute the seeds of high quality to the farmers and also to bring about awareness among the farming community towards utilisation of high quality seeds for ensuring better yields. Some of the major achievements of NSC during the Eighth Plan period are as under:—

(i) Certified seeds production increased from 372385 qtls. in 1992-93 to estimated production of 463435 qtls. in 1994-95.

(ii) Foundation seeds production increased from 23967 qtls in 1992-93 to 34802 qtls in 1994-95.

(iii) Recognising the value of green manuring NSC has stepped up green manure seed procurement and distribution as indicated below:

Year	Qty distributed in qtls.
1993-94	1120
1994-95	6161

(iv) Considering the advantages of true potato seed over the conventional tuber as planting material, NSC made a beginning by distributing a mere 300 grams of true potato seed in 1991-92 which increased to 18 kgs in 1994-95 and is projected to further increase to 50 kgs. in 1995-96.

(v) For quick and rapid spread of new superior genotypes among farmers, NSC is actively participating in Govt. of India's Minikits Programme.

Central State Farm in Gujarat

1229. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of Central State Farms in Gujarat particularly in tribal areas;

(b) the area of land being utilized for producing seeds of various food grains; and

(c) the quantum of seeds produced in these farms during 1994-95?

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) State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI) Limited, a public sector undertaking under the control of this Ministry, is not having any Central State Farm in Gujarat State.

(b) and (c) In view of the position indicated above, the question does not arise.

Asea Brown Boveri Locomotives

1230. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asea Brown Boveri (ABB) has won the tender to export rail locomotives to the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the export is likely to be begin;

(d) whether the ABB has taken various initiatives in view of the tight delivery schedules;

(e) if so, whether the Government have taken steps to ensure the standard of materials and technology as per the agreements reached in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the future plan of phasing out the existing engines in favour of new ABB design engines?