

### **Contamination of Corn Under U/s 416 Programme**

290. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the corn sent under U/s 416 has been found to be contaminated with aflatoxin a potential carcinogen;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken up the matter with the United States Agriculture Department;

(c) whether the United States Agriculture Department has since sent officials to India to investigate the complaint; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) to (d). In the context of drought in 1987, Government of U.S.A. donated 4 lakh MTs of corn to Government of India under U.S. State Government Agricultural Commodity Foreign Donation Agreement. Out of this, 2 lakh MTs of corn was imported in 1988 and the balance 2 lakh MTs in 1989.

On arrival of the corn at Indian ports in 1989, a representative sample was drawn by Indian surveyors. It reported 40 parts per billion (ppb) contents against the permissible limit of aflatoxin for human consumption as per U.S. standards at 20 ppb. The matter was immediately brought to the notice of Government of U.S. by NAFED who were appointed handling and distributing agency on behalf of the Government of India.

Government of U.S. deputed an official from Washington to visit India in this connection. He held discussions with NAFED and Government of India.

Government of India constituted a Technical Committee to get the entire corn tested again at Government nominated laboratories. Since, there was no prescribed tolerance limit for poultry and cattle feed in India, the Technical Committee recommended 100 ppb as the tolerance limit of aflatoxin for poultry and cattle feed sectors.

In all, 95 samples were drawn and analysed for aflatoxin at Government nominated laboratories. All the samples have been reported to contain aflatoxin below 100 ppb. The corn, is therefore, being distributed in the poultry and cattle feed sectors. As a measure of abundant caution, corn has not been distributed for human consumption.

### **Sri Lankan Refugees**

291. SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of refugees who arrived from Sri Lanka during 1989 as on date; and

(b) the places where these refugees have been housed?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) 1095.

(b) of these, 952 refugees have been housed in the two transit camps at Mandapam and Kottapattu in Tamil Nadu. The remaining refugees did not seek admission in the Camps.

### **Reinstatement of Dismissed DTC Employees**

292. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of D.T.C. employ-