

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-

ees who were suspended/dismissed from service for taking part in the last DTC strike;

(b) the number of such employees reinstated so far and how many of them are still under suspension/dismissal;

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider the cases of remaining dismissed DTC employees; and

(d) if so, when they are likely to be reinstated?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) to (d). A total of 3125 employees were dismissed from service by DTC in March, 1988. These employees are being taken back in service by DTC after considering the requests made by them. In this regard the position till 21.12.89 has been as follows:-

(i) Number of petitions representations received	2666
(ii) Number of offer letters sent by DTC for employment	2645
(iii) Number of acceptance of offer received	2454
(iv) Number of employees reappointed	2452

The process of consideration of representations, sending of offers, etc. is continuing.

The requests made by many employees to be taken back have been favourably considered, and some more pending cases are under process and are expected to be settled at the earliest.

Terrorists Training Centres in Pakistan

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

(a) whether Government of Pakistan have responded to the request of the Government of India to close the training centres located in Pakistan for training terrorists who are infiltrating into India; and

(b) how many such training centres are located in Pakistan and in Pakistan occupied Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) There have been three rounds of talks between Union Home Secretary and Interior Secretary of Pakistan on various issues including terrorism and training of terrorists who are infiltrating into India.

(b) There are reports of such training centres though it will be difficult to give their exact locations and number. These continue to vary.

12.05 hrs.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You may please raise your hands and I will call you one by one. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down, I shall listen to you also.

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Sa-