

lity of the products which come under its purview.

(d) and (e) : Unlike the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, the Fruit Products Order lays down detailed specification on different aspects bearing on the quality of the products covered by it and thereby supplements the regulatory control exercised under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. The total expenditure incurred on the Administration of the Order during 1984-85 is estimated at about Rs. 21.50 lakhs.

[*Translation*]

**Non-Availability of Essential
Commodities due to Wagon
Shortage**

6353. DR. B. L. SHAIKESH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether consumers in different parts of the country, particularly in the Eastern U.P., have recently been facing difficulty due to non-availability of essential goods like sugar etc., as there is shortage of railway wagons ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by him to meet the shortage of wagons ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

**Working of Fertiliser Quality
Control Laboratories**

6354. SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Fertilisers Quality Control Laboratories are working to their optimum capacities ;

(b) if not, what percentage of the analysing capacity of these laboratories had remained idle during the last three years ;

(c) what is the capacity and the actual number of samples analysed during the last three years ;

(d) the reasons why these laboratories are not working to their optimum capacities ; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to optimise capacity utilisation and/or to augment the capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) to (c) : A statement showing the State-wise number of laboratories, their fertilisers analytical capacity and actual number of samples analysed during 1982-83, 1983-84 and as per figures available upto September, 1984 is annexed.

(d) Absence of adequate levels of staff and equipment, non-availability of requisite quantities of power and water, non-supply of required number of samples by the field staff, non-availability of standard chemicals and glassware, absence of proper laboratory buildings in some cases, are a few of the main reasons for non-utilisation of the approved capacity of the laboratories.

(e) In addition to the 7th Plan proposals for strengthening of fertiliser enforcement and quality control infrastructure in the country, the Government of India have also addressed the State Governments to review the functioning of their quality control laboratories as also the work done by fertiliser quality control inspectors with a view to enhance the utilisation of capacity for analysis of fertiliser samples created in the respective States. They have also been requested to depute enforcement and analytical staff for training at the Central Fertiliser Quality Control and Training Institute, as per the seats allotted to them for this purpose, with a view to upgrade their knowledge and skill in the area of their operation.