

of the State Governments have, on their part, notified various functionaries, like Appellate Authority, Licensing Officer, Insecticides Analysts and Insecticides Inspectors to implement the relevant provisions of the Act and the Rules framed thereunder. On the basis of the reports of the analysis, the State Governments/UT Administrations Institute legal proceedings or take other actions, wherever necessary.

(b) A total number of 35 State Pesticides Testing Laboratories are engaged in the analysis of samples of pesticides to monitor the quality status. The State wise position is that 9 laboratories are situated in Tamil Nadu, 4 each in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh 2 each in U.P. and Gujarat and one each in Assam, Bihar, Haryana, J&K, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Mizoram and Pondicherry. There is a Central Insecticide Laboratory at Faridabad (Haryana), with a unit each at Bombay and Hyderabad. As regards the other authorities, mentioned in reply to part (a) of the Question, according to the available information, all the States/UTs, except Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram, have appointed most of the functionaries.

(c) and (d). Though there are 35 State Pesticides Testing Laboratories in the country, it has been felt that the facilities available with the States and Union Territories need to be supplemented and augmented to enable the States and Union Territories to undertake the work of quality control more vigorously.

Also, the Central Government has sanctioned the establishment of five Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories at Chandigarh, Bombay, Kanpur, Hyderabad and Calcutta during the 7th Plan Period to supplement the resources of the State Government/UTs.

Pricing Policy of N.S.C.

1229. DR. K. G. ADIYODI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the pricing policy of National Seeds Corporation for the supply of seeds at uniform price.

(b) whether seeds are sold at uniform rates throughout the country; and

(c) if not, steps taken to save the farmers from exploitation by middlemen ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPFRATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The policy of the National Seeds Corporation is to supply seeds at a reasonable price throughout the country.

(b) Normally, the National Seeds Corporation sells its seeds at uniform rates throughout the country. However, individual cases of differences between the prices charged by the N.S.C. and the prices fixed by the State Governments and State Seeds Corporations are also examined from time to time and, if considered necessary, the prices of N.S.C. are suitably reduced so as to be on par with the prices charged by the State Seeds Corporations.

(c) Prices of seeds charged from the farmers for N.S.C.'s seeds remain uniform irrespective of the sales outlets. The Corporation has a large number of retail sales outlets which act as a mechanism for regulating the sale prices. In addition, the Corporation also conducts periodical checking of its dealers to ensure that the seeds are sold by them only at the prices fixed by the Corporation.

Exotic Pests and Disease

1230. DR. K. G. ADIYODI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by Government against the entry of exotic pests and diseases through international trade in our country;

(b) the number of units engaged in identifying such pests, state-wise; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the number and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) All the plants and plant material coming into the country are checked and treated if need be, at all the International Airports, important seaports and strategic entry points on land frontier.

(b) These are located in the following States/UTs. :—

| State | No. of Plant Quarantine and Fumigation Stations |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Andhra Pradesh | 2 |
| 2. Bihar | 1 |
| 3. Delhi | 1 |
| 4. Gujarat | 1 |
| 5. Kerala | 2 |
| 6. Maharashtra | 2 |
| 7. Punjab | 4 |
| 8. Tamil Nadu | 6 |
| 9. Uttar Pradesh | 1 |
| 10. West Bengal | 6 |

(c) These facilities shall be augmented depending upon the need and availability of funds.

Sale of Sugar Through Traders

1231 SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether with a view to keep sugar prices under control, Government have taken a decisions to remove the quantum limits on the sale of imported sugar through tenders;

(b) if so, the effect of this procedure on market prices;

(c) whether those who buy sugar through tender are required to sell it at a price fixed by Government and if not, how it helps in holding the price line; and

(d) the margin kept for traders who buy sugar through tenders and steps taken to ensure that they do not corner sugar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The rise in the wholesale prices of indigenous sugar as well as imported sugar has been arrested and the prices have remained at reasonable levels.

(c) and (d). The sale of imported sugar by Food Corporation of India is in the open market through a system of auction and no sale price has been fixed for eventual sale in the retail. This is the position with regard to indigenous sugar sold by factories in the open market. However, in view of the comfortable availability of imported as well as indigenous sugar, sugar prices had ruled at reasonable levels in the open market.

Imported sugar is also subject to statutory provisions in respect of sale and stock-holding limits of sugar. The State Governments had also been advised to undertake surprise checks/raids and de-hoarding operations and to ensure that sugar licenced dealers comply with statutory provisions.

INDO-EEC Project on Fishery Development

1232. SHRI SRIHARI RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :