

Decline in production of raw Jute

1107. **SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's production of raw jute has been declining during the last ten years and this has now posed a danger to the export performance; and

(b) if so, the steps Government purposes to take to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) No, Sir. Although the production of jute in the country has fluctuated in recent years, the overall rate of growth has been positive.

(b) To increase jute production in the country, a comprehensive centrally sponsored scheme of Intensive Jute District Programme launched by Government of India is being implemented since 1972-73.

Supply of Adulterated pesticides

1108. **SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the adulterated pesticides, especially in West Bengal, that are supplied to farmers; and

(b) if so, remedial steps taken or proposed to stop this alleged corrupt practice?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Some complaints alleging adulteration of pesticides have been received by the Government.

(b) Insecticide Inspectors and Insecticides Analyst appointed by the State Governments keep a watch over the quality of pesticides sold in their

respective areas and initiate penal action where pesticides are found to be mis-branded/adulterated. In order to strengthen quality control facilities with regard to pesticides, the Government of India has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 760 lakh during the current financial year for the establishment of an Insecticide Control Laboratory in West Bengal.

Setting up of an Appli Juice plant at Baramulla by M/s Cadbury India Ltd.

1109. **SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cadbury India Limited, the subsidiary of a British Multinational Corporation, has been granted an industrial licence to set up an apple juice plant at Baramulla District in the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether apple juice in a priority industry needs sophisticated technology which is not available in India; and

(d) if the answer to (c) be in the negative, the reasons why a Multinational has been allowed to enter this non-priority consumer goods industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). An application received from M/s. Cadbury India Ltd. for grant of an Industrial Licence for the manufacture of apple juice concentrate in the State of Jammu and Kashmir with the technical know-how and the processing technique of M/s. H.P. Balmer Ltd. of U.K. is under consideration of the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.