

Insecticides are intended to control pests and diseases. By their very nature, they are toxic and hazardous substances. Realising the dangers to human-beings and animals by their use, the Govt. enacted the Insecticide Act, 1968, which came into operation in 1971. Under Sec. 9 of this Act, before an insecticide can be permitted to be manufactured or imported it has to be compulsorily registered. The Registration Committee consisting of senior technical experts has been constituted under Sec. 5 of the Act. This Committee goes into the details of toxicity and hazards associated with the use of any insecticide. It is only after their satisfaction on the efficacy of the insecticide and its safety to human beings and animals that a certificate of registration is granted.

A number of insecticides which were in use in the country and were found to be toxic and hazardous by the Registration Committee, have been either not registered or phased out or permitted to be used with certain additional safeguards.

(b) The provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 (as amended in 1977) are considered adequate. Hence, no further steps are presently contemplated.

Shelter for Urban Agglomerations

3679. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a seminar held in Ahmedabad on January 22, 1981, the Ahmedabad Study Action Group jointly with similar national and international organisations has formulated 5-years Plan of action with a view to intensifying search for relevant non-functional and alternative approaches to providing shelter for the vast poor masses of growing urban agglomerations;

(b) if so, the salient features of this plan; and

(c) the action, if any, proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) The Ahmedabad Study Action Group (ASAG) jointly with an international organisation SELAVIP International had organised seminars on 'Non-Conventional and Alternative Approaches to shelter the Urban Poor at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Hyderabad from 7 to 25 January, 1981. In Ahmedabad, no seminar was held but discussions regarding follow up action were held and an assessment of the four seminars was made. Government is not aware of any 5-year plan of action having been formulated by A.S.A.G.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Question does not arise.

Supply of Text Books to Schools in Tamil Nadu Affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education

3680. SHRI ERA MOHAN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Higher Secondary Schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education are functioning in Tamil Nadu;

(b) how many such schools there are in Coimbatore District;

(c) what is the arrangement for supplying text books to these schools;

(d) whether all the books have to go from New Delhi;

(e) whether in view of the centralised system of supply, arrangements can be made for printing and distributing the books from Regional Centres like Coimbatore in October to avoid delay; and

(f) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) 103.

(b) 16.

(c) and (d). The text-books published by Central Board of Secondary Education, can be had from local or other booksellers or direct from the office of Central Board of Secondary Education. Insofar as text-books brought out by the National Council of Educational Research and Training are concerned, these are supplied directly from National Council of Educational Research and Training in New Delhi and also through their wholesale and retail agents in Tamil Nadu. Books brought out by private publishers are marketed through normal trade channels.

(e) and (f). There is no proposal to print the text-books at regional centres like Coimbatore. However, the National Council of Educational Research and Training is examining the possibility of handing over the distribution of its text-books in that area to the Publications Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, who have now set up a Sales Emporium at Madras. The Central Board of Secondary Education has also set up a Regional Office at Madras and arrangements are being made to supply the Board's publications from its Regional Office.

Trunk Calls during 1980 in Purnea and Saharsa Districts

3681. SHRI D. L. BAITHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trunk calls booked and matured during 1980 in Purnea, Forbesganj, Araria Court, Kishanganj, Saharsa Madhepura, Supaul and Tribeniganj, telephone exchanges;

(b) whether it is a fact that owing to faulty lines and lack of proper maintenance of the lines, large number of booked calls remain pending or are cancelled; if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard;

(c) the loss on account of fall of number of calls put through due to defective lines; and

(d) whether it is a fact that most of the lines connecting P.C.Os. in the rural areas also remain out of order, neglected and without any maintenance for months together; if so, what is the present arrangement of repair and maintenance of telephone lines and further steps to improve the working of repair and maintenance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) The details of number of trunk calls booked and matured during 1980 (from April to December, 1980) are enclosed at statement.

(b) No Sir. In certain exchanges, some long-distance calls are cancelled due to several transits or faults on openwire lines. To speed up trunk traffic, Ultra High Frequency Radio System are planned between.

(i) Katihar-Forbesganj for linking Katihar-Patna and Katihar-Calcutta trunk circuits;

(ii) Darbhanga-Supaul Saharsa for connecting to Darbhanga-Patna microwave link; and

(iii) Between Katihar-Purnea for connecting to the coaxial cable link between Siliguri and Calcutta.

To reduce the power failures, one additional engine alternator is under installation at Saharsa.

(c) This is hypothetical and no loss since lines are out of order.

(d) No Sir. The majority of Public Telephones working in rural areas are connected to Small Automatic Exchanges which in turn have to depend on the State Power Supply, prolonged power failures in addition to faults, on open-wire lines causes interruptions of service.

The rural public telephones are tested daily by the exchange staff to which the PCO is parented and faults, if any, are reported to the line staff and rectified. The senior maintenance officials also keep watch on the performance of public telephones.