

(b) Allotments of General Pool accommodation are made on the basis of the priority dates as defined in the Allotment of Government Residences (General Pool in Delhi) Rules, 1963, which do not permit giving any special priority to these employees.

Adulterated Fertilizers

6738. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether high level committee of experts has suggested to the Centre to amend the Fertilizer Control Order to check adulteration which is resulting in low offtake of fertilizers in States :

(b) whether at present, any private fertilizer company can sell its produce in any State without any control on quality and price ; and

(c) if so, steps taken to control quality and price of fertilizers by private as well as cooperatives who are found guilty of mal-practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R.V. SWAMINATHAN) : (a) The Government of India set up a Committee of Experts to review the existing Fertilizer Control Order. The report of the Committee is awaited. There is no evidence to show that the offtake of fertilizer in the States has been low as a result of adulteration. Adequate provisions have been made in the Fertiliser Control Order to check adulteration of fertilisers.

(b) and (c), No fertiliser can be sold by any body if it does not confirm to predetermined specifications. Even the prices of all the major fertilisers, except, Ammonium Sulphate, Calcium Ammonium Nitrate, Ammonium Chloride and

Single Superphosphate are statutorily controlled. Any person selling fertilisers at the prices higher than the statutorily controlled prices, is liable to punishment under Fertiliser Control Order. However, in the case of physical mixtures/special mixtures, the specifications of which have not been included in the Schedule of the Fertiliser Control Order, there is no statutory control.

Siltation threat to Bhakra and Ramganga Projects

6739. DR. KARUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that siltation is threatening the Himalayan projects such as Bhakra and Ramganga more rapidly than assumed;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for the same; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to check ecological degradation of the Himalayas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) Siltation in these reservoirs is more than anticipated.

(b) Deforestation, uncontrolled grazing and unscientific farming practices result in increased sediment load entering the storage reservoirs.

(c) A centrally sponsored scheme for soil conservation measures in the catchment areas of the River Valley Projects is already in hand for protecting the catchments to reduce the sediment load entering the storage reservoirs.