

Setback to demand and supply position of oilseeds

1218. SHRI B.D. SINGH:

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR
SINGH:

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the massive setback in oilseeds production during 1982-83, the gap between the demand and supply has considerably widened;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the shortfall in the anticipated domestic production of oilseeds and reasons for the low production as against the potential; and

(c) the quantity with value of edible oils estimated to be imported to meet the demand and its likely impact on the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) and (b). Due to drought and other unfavourable weather conditions prevailing in some of the States during 1982, the kharif crop of groundnut is reported to have been adversely affected mainly in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The loss in kharif groundnut production is expected to be partially offset by the increased production of rabi oilseeds, particularly repressed & mustard. However, it is too early to make any final assessment of the gap in demand and supply of oilseeds.

(c) The Government is keeping constant vigil on prices of edible oils and taking all corrective actions to ensure their stability. The quantum of imports of edible oils would depend upon various considerations including demand for and production of indigenous oils, price situation, foreign exchange implication etc.

Concern at extensive use of pesticides

1219. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that scientists of Central Food Laboratory have expressed grave concern at the extensive use of pesticides like Melathion for spraying foodgrains with consequent serious health hazards;

(b) whether residual pesticides above the tolerance limit exists in foodgrains due to lack of proper scientific methods of control and checking; and

(c) if so, what action will be taken to safeguard public health?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH):

(a) The Central Food Laboratory, and the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health have reported some time back that some of the samples of the food stuffs contained insecticidal residues higher than the tolerance levels prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.

(b) and (c). Residues of insecticides higher than the tolerance limit can be accounted for by excessive improper and unscientific use of pesticides. The Food (Health) Authorities in all the States and Union Territories have been advised from time to time to intensify their activities for checking insecticide residues and for ensuring that they do not exceed the tolerance levels.

Construction of an Additional Floor in Buildings in Delhi

1220. SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to permit construction of an additional floor in the buildings in Delhi;