

Diversion of DDT for Agricultural Use

1410 SHRI M S PURTY Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state,

(a) whether malaria had staged a come-back in large parts of the country due to the non-availability of DDT as 50 percent of its quota had been diverted to agriculture,

(b) whether farmers use DDT indiscriminately in crop protection and foodgrains storage thus creating a public health hazard, and

(c) if so in a bid to prevent India from becoming the dumping ground for pesticides and chemicals of doubtful utility, whether Government will set up a Pesticides and Insecticides Board?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A K M ISHAQUE) (a) Although the incidence of malaria has increased in some parts of the country it is not wholly due to non-availability of DDT. The requirements of DDT for National Malaria Eradication Programme are being met partly from indigenous production and partly by imports

(b) and (c) A Central Insecticides Board has already been established under the Insecticides Act, 1968. This Board has set up agencies and laid down norms to scrutinize the manufacture, sale and use of insecticides in the country including their use for plant protection and storage of foodgrains. All aspects of the usage of insecticides including their toxic hazard are under constant scrutiny of this Board.

Iran and Japan to Import Alumina from India

1411 SHRI DHAMANKAR Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iran and Japan have shown interest in importing alumina

and have offered to finance the setting up of alumina plants in India,

(b) if so, the main features of offer made by these countries and the reaction of Government to the offers; and

(c) at what stage consideration of the matter stands?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD) (a) to (c) In response to the interest shown by Iran for importing alumina from India, a proposal to set up an alumina plant in Gujarat, based on Kutch bauxite deposits with an annual capacity of 3 lakhs tonnes is under consideration. The proposed alumina plant will be captive to the requirements of an aluminium smelter proposed to be set up in Iran and vice versa. Iran is expected to make available credit on soft terms for financing the entire project. Further details regarding implementation of the project are to be worked out in consultation with the Iranian authorities.

A Japanese firm has shown some interest in setting up an export-oriented alumina plant in India. However, no detailed offer has been received in this regard.

Anti India Statements by Chinese Embassy in Nepal

1412 SHRI C K JAFFER SHARIEF
SHRI D B CHANDRA GOWDA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu has lodged any protest with the Nepalese Foreign Ministry against the action of the Chinese Embassy in releasing two Press statements on Sikkim, containing derogatory references about Indian leaders; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Nepalese Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) The matter has also been taken up with the Nepalese Ambassador in New Delhi.

(b) The Nepalese Government have said that they are looking into the matter.

Dearth of Plastic Surgeons in the Country

1413. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the dearth of plastic surgeons in the country in view of the growing number of cases needing plastic surgery; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to meet the growing demand?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) and (b). Adequate facilities for Plastic Surgery exist in major hospitals in the country and there are Departments of Plastic Surgery with adequate facilities at several medical Colleges/associated hospitals. Besides, many medical colleges in the country have Post-graduate courses in Plastic Surgery where Surgeons are being trained.

Protest by Delhi Transporters' Association on 500 KM Ceiling on Movement of Goods by Trucks

1414. SARDAR MOHINDER SINGH GILL:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Transporters' Association has strongly protested against the 500 KM ceiling on movement of goods by trucks;

(b) whether this ceiling *inter-alia* nullifies the agreement reached at by

the Centre with the State Governments introducing zonal systems to enable the transport permit holders to carry goods through all zonal States without any break; and

(c) if so, whether the matter will be reconsidered in the interest of quick and safe transport of goods when railways are not competent to take the full load?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Certain instructions for effecting saving in consumption of High Speed Diesel by Road Transport Vehicles were issued to the State Governments/Union Administrations by the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals in August, 1974. These included restrictions on plying of commercial motor vehicles beyond 500 Kms. and on grant of new permits. On receipt of representations from Transport Operators/Unions, the instructions relating to road transport are being reconsidered.

Allocations of Funds for Delhi Hospitals

1415. SHRI BISWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) what allocations were made by the Central Government for running different hospitals in Delhi during the last three years, year-wise and hospital-wise;

(b) whether even though the costs of medicines, food etc. have gone up, the allocations have not been raised proportionately;

(c) how far the cost of maintaining a patient in a hospital ward has gone up during this period;

(d) whether in the absence of adequate increase in financial allocation, the patients are made to suffer; and