

Fund could be utilised only through dole to the Consumer Bodies as financial assistance.

(b) if so, whether there was flagrant violation of the rules and regulations for spending from the Consumer Welfare Fund:

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government against the guilty persons and to recover the amount?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : Sir, Under the Consumer Welfare Fund rules, any agency/organization, village/Mandal/Samiti level cooperatives of consumers especially of women, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, engaged in the consumer welfare activities for a period of three years and registered under the Companies Act, 1956 or under any law for the time being in force are eligible to seek financial assistance from the Fund. Besides, any industry as defined in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 recommended by Bureau of Indian Standards to be engaged for a period of five years in viable and useful research activities which has made or is likely to make significant contribution in formation of standard mark of the products of mass consumption; the State Governments, etc., are also eligible to seek financial assistance from the Fund.

(b) and (c). So far, no such violation has come to the notice of the Ministry.

(d) Does not arise.

Wheat Grain Affected by Karnal Bunt Fungus

2695. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether wheat grain is affected by the Karnal bunt fungus;

(b) if so, the total loss suffered during the last three years as a result thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to come over the situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Wheat grain is affected by Karnal bunt fungus mainly in some pockets of Punjab, Haryana and western U.P. Even during epidemic the extent of loss due to karnal bunt is estimated between 0.2 to 0.5%. During last three years there has been no report of any epidemic due to Karnal Bunt.

(c) The Government has taken the following steps to overcome the situation :

(i) ICAR Institutes, State Agricultural Universities and other extension functionaries are

advocating growing of Karnal bunt disease resistant/tolerant varieties.

(ii) Seed treatment with thiram fungicide to control seed-borne infection of the disease.

(iii) Foliar application with bitertanol/propiconazole fungicides at the early heading stage.

Corruption in D.M.S

1696. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the alleged corruption prevailing in the Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS);

(b) if so, the details of such cases which have come to light during the last five years;

(c) whether any Departmental and C.B.I. inquiry had been conducted against the guilty officers of D.M.S. during the said period.

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government on the basis of findings of inquiry, and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to check the corruption prevalent in the D.M.S.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (e) There was one case of corruption in the Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) in the last five years. This involved a General Manager. The case was handled by the Central Bureau of Investigation and is currently under trial.

(f) The Vigilance Officer and the Chief Vigilance Officer exercise the necessary checks and control to prevent corruption in the D.M.S.

Illegal Felling of Trees

2697. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the large scale illegal felling of trees in the Rajaji Park in the Shivalik hills, Uttar Pradesh is causing serious decline in the forest cover as well as loss of crores of rupees to the Forest Department;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government propose to take concrete action against the involved persons, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The State Chief Wildlife Warden

has reported that there is no large scale illegal felling of trees in the Rajaji National Park. However, some cases of illegal tree felling are detected from time to time and suitable action is taken in such cases under law.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Prices of Foodgrains

2698. SHRI P.C. THOMAS
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO
SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY
SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have increased the Central Issue Prices of foodgrains under Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether his attention has been invited to the newsitem captioned "Prices of wheat, by-products may soar under revamped PDS", appearing in "The Financial Express", New Delhi, dated November 10, 1996;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the steps being taken to ensure that the hike in Central Issue Prices (CIPs) for PDS foodgrains does not cause rise in the open market prices thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV)

(a) No, Sir. The Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice have not been increased after 12/1994.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f). The rise in open market prices of foodgrains depends on market demands, availability of foodgrains in the market and consumer preferences. Hence, an increase in CIP of foodgrains meant for PDS/RPDS cannot completely and directly relate with the rise in open market prices of foodgrains.

A constant watch is kept on the production levels and stocks of foodgrains and efforts are made to have sufficient stocks of foodgrains in Central Pool to ensure adequate availability of foodgrains. Open sale of wheat and rice is undertaken to curb the inflationary trend in the market. The Govt., has, however, not yet taken a final decision on the proposal for streamlining the PDS.

[Translation]

Welfare Projects

2699. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some welfare projects of Gujarat State particularly relating to tribal and backward areas are lying pending or under consideration with the Union Government for the sanction of funds at present;

(b) if so, the project-wise details thereof and the date from which these projects are lying pending with the Union Government;

(c) the reasons for the delay, if any;

(d) the project wise estimated cost thereof; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (e). No tribal welfare projects from the Government of Gujarat are pending with the Ministry of Welfare. However, information from other Ministries/Departments is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House on receipt.

[English]

Guidelines to SPCBa

2700. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Central Government have directed State Pollution Control Boards to take punitive action against the industrial units flouting environmental norms and effectively enforce the pollution control measures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several State Governments are not following the directives of the Central Government and have failed to take any effective measures; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government if the State Governments failed to take any action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (d). No specific directions were issued by the Central Government to the State Pollution Control Boards to take punitive action against the industrial units violating environmental norms. However, the Central and State Pollution Control Boards are actively monitoring the progress of implementation of installation of adequate pollution control facilities in 1551 units identified as highly polluting industries under the 17 categories. Out of 1551 units identified among the 17 categories for pollution control, 1259 units have provided requisite pollution control facilities and 112