

(c) Enforcement of various provisions concerning the quality control of pesticides under the Insecticides Act, 1968 is the responsibility of the States/UTs. As per the provision of this Act, Insecticides Inspectors draw samples from the manufacturing premises, distribution/sale points and get them analysed in the State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs). Whenever the pesticides are found substandard, prosecutions are launched by the States/UTs against the manufacturers/Suppliers of substandard pesticides.

Periodical review is being made during Zonal Conferences on Inputs and National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif/Rabi campaign about the quality control arrangements including action against the traders of spurious pesticides.

To upgrade the efficiency of State Insecticide Inspectors and Insecticide Analyst, Orientation Training Programmes are being conducted by the Government of India. Efforts are also being made by the Government to educate the farmers for correct and judicious use of pesticides to avoid damages to crops due to improper use of pesticides. In addition, eco-friendly Integrated Pest Management approach is being advocated for use by the farmers to minimise the adverse effects of chemical pesticides.

(d) and (e) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers are in close touch with each other as far as matters regarding pesticides are concerned.

Support Price for Wheat

181. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has fixed the minimum support price of wheat at Rs. 510 per quintal for the current season;

(b) if so, whether this includes a bonus of Rs. 55 per quintal;

(c) whether some of the States like Haryana have urged the Government for increase of support price of wheat to Rs. 600 per quintal;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the decision taken thereon; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (e) The Government fixed the minimum support price (MSP) of wheat at Rs. 455 per quintal for 1997-98 crop to be marketed in 1998-99. The State Governments of Haryana and Punjab requested for enhancing the MSP of wheat to Rs. 600 per quintal and Rs.

610 per quintal, respectively. The Government, however, decided that the farmers will be paid a Central bonus of Rs. 55 per quintal in addition to the minimum support price of Rs. 455 per quintal for wheat procured during the period from 1st April, 1998 to 10th June, 1998 for Central pool.

Indo-US Relations

182. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US has shown keen desire to work with the new Indian Government;

(b) if so, whether there is a great change in the attitude of the US towards India after formation of the new Government;

(c) whether the new Government has also welcomed the US Government's desire to improve the relations with India; and

(d) if so, to what extent the relations are being improved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) It has been India's long-term policy to work towards a good stable relationship with the United States. In that context, Government have welcomed that the US and India have been engaged in a broad-based dialogue to broaden and deepen our mutually beneficial relations and to build on areas of cooperation.

(d) The recent announcement of economic sanctions by the United States under its Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act, 1994 could affect the development of our bilateral cooperation.

MR. SPEAKER : Now we shall take up Papers to be laid on the Table.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, respected Kashiramji has been arrested today(Interruptions) Uttar Pradesh Government has arrested him(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

.....(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded