

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please try to understand. The Minister may now complete his reply.

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, I am yet to complete my reply
...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : The raid has been made against Congress M.L.A. It has been figured in the newspapers in much bold letters. Will the Minister be pleased to ask for the report from the Delhi Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : See the pulses worth of Rs. 68 crores have been seized from a place. Why is action not being taken against the hoarders.
...(*Interruptions*)

12.00 hrs.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : What action have you taken against the hoarders, profiteers and blackmarketeers?
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to give reply.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister complete it now.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ajit Jogi, please take your seat, what is this? Shri Bhuria, you also take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to give a reply if the hon'ble members are in a mood to listen to me. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

*[English]***Crop of Soyabean**

1. SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) whether the crop of Soyabean has been damaged upto 80% this year in Madhya Pradesh due to the disease of 'Rust';

(b) whether the Soyabean producers of Madhya Pradesh have suffered heavy loss due to it;

(c) the compensation or the financial assistance proposed to be provided by the Union Government to the farmers growing Soyabean in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) whether the Union Government would make an arrangement to provide the Soyabean seed to the farmers in Madhya Pradesh next year at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (c) As per information furnished by Government of Madhya Pradesh, there is no major damage to soyabean during Kharif 1998 in Madhya Pradesh. This has been corroborated by the National Research Centre for Soyabean, Indore. The 'rust' disease was only localised in Betul and Chhindwara districts. Timely 'rust' awareness campaign was undertaken by Department of Agriculture, Madhya Pradesh alongwith National Research Center for Soyabean, Indore and the Centre on Integrated Pest Management. The disease was controlled by fungicidal sprays by farmers. There was recurrence of 'rust' in later stage around maturity but it was not of consequence with respect to productivity.

(d) Distribution of certified/truthfully labelled seeds to the farmers is organised by the State Government. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that they are taking adequate steps to provide seeds to the farmers for 1999 Kharif. The Central Government is providing Rs. 300/- per quintal for distribution of certified seeds and Rs. 200/- per quintal for production of seeds as subsidy under the scheme of Oil Seeds Production Programme.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH (Satna) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am grateful to you for admitting short notice question regarding farmers. Madhya Pradesh is the largest soyabean producer state of the country that is it is the front runner state with regards to the production of Soyabean but last year the soyabean crops of the farmers got wasted in the fields itself due to excessive rain. The Government have made available the soyabean seeds to the farmers at a very exuberant rates this year. In the current year the soyabean crop has been wasted in large scale due to the rust disease particularly in Satna and Rewa districts of Madhya Pradesh whereas the hon-Minister has said in the reply that the crop has not got wasted in large scale. The reply is totally incorrect. I would like to know from the hon. Agriculture Minister whether he would try to get investigated by an agency the loss of soyabean crop being wasted due to the rust disease.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in the reply that no large scale loss of soyabean crop has happened this time in Madhya Pradesh. Some loss of crop has surely happened due to the rust disease in Betul and Chindwara regions. When this disease crept in at the initial state it was controlled by spraying insecticides and fungicides and also by managing integrated pest management. This disease resurfaced during the last stage of the crop. The Central and State Government got the matter investigated separately through Rashriya Soyabean Anusandhan Kendra, Indore. The University informed that some and not too much loss of crop has happened. All the necessary arrangements were done. Primarily, it is a State matter. If the State Government asks for financial and technical assistance from the centre, we are ready to provide it.

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that the information received from the Madhya Pradesh Government is incorrect. Whether the Government of India would get the matter investigated by its own agency? ... (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker Sir, my request in an important one. Soyabean was procured from the farmers this year at the rate of rupees one thousand per quintal whereas the Madhya Pradesh Government made the seeds available at the rate of rupees 1823 per quintal to the farmers. Whether the Government of India would stop the acts being done by the Madhya Pradesh Government by differentiating between procurement and selling price in future? Whether you would make the seeds available to the farmers at reasonable rate for the coming crop of 1999.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, presently the rate of soyabean is much higher in the market in comparison to its minimum support price. So far as the question of making seeds available to the farmers at subsidised rates is concerned the central Government have already started a scheme in this regard. During the present year efforts are being made to make available certified seeds and general seeds at the rate of rupees 1800 and 1500 respectively. In addition to it the Central Government is providing rupees 200 per quintal as relief to the State Government and making efforts to provide seeds at a subsidised rate. In this regard adequate fund is being provided to the Madhya Pradesh government under centrally sponsored scheme.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Delhi Milk Scheme

*244. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Milk Scheme have been supplying adulterated milk in some of the colonies of the capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the quality of milk/milk products is being tested from time to time before distribution;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure supply of quality milk and milk products by DMS; and

(f) what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure that the common people get the milk at official rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) and (d) The milk is invariably tested for all quality parameters including those prescribed under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 standards.