

This subject is also part of the agenda at meetings of the Border Security Force, Joint Working Group on Border Management & Security and Home Secretary level talks that India has with Bangladesh. During the Home Secretary level talks with Bangladesh in Dhaka on 20-22 November 1998, both sides reaffirmed their resolve to not allow undesirable elements to use their territories for action prejudicial to the security interests of the other. Both sides agreed to share relevant intelligence towards this end.

[Translation]

Nuclear Control System

259. DR. ASHOK PATEL :

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Pakistan has agreed to set up nuclear control system with India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Indian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) During the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Lahore, India and Pakistan have agreed to take immediate steps for reducing the risk of accidental or unauthorised use of nuclear weapons, discuss concepts and doctrines with a view to elaborating measures for confidence building in the nuclear and conventional fields aimed at prevention of conflict. The two sides have also agreed to notify each other immediately in the event of any accidental, unauthorised or unexplained incident that could create the risk of a fallout with adverse consequences for both sides, or an outbreak of a nuclear war between the two countries, as well as to adopt measures aimed at diminishing the possibility of such actions, or such incidents being misinterpreted by the other. The two sides shall identify/establish the appropriate communication mechanism for this purpose.

(c) Government welcome these measures intended to promote and environment of peace and security between the two countries.

[English]

Production of Kesari Dal

260. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU :

SHRI JAYARAMA I. M. SHETTY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the production of Kesari Dal is harmful for the human beings;
- (b) if so, whether ICAR have conducted any survey in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the reaction of the Government on the use of Kesari Dal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) In certain areas Khesari is produced and consumed by human beings. Consumption of Khesari dal has been reported to be associated with the crippling paralytic disease known as Lathyrism as per published reports.

(b) and (c) A survey about production, consumption pattern and harmful effect of Khesari Dal on human health was conducted in a sample of villages in Chattisgarh region of M.P. by Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur in 1996. The major findings of survey are summarized as follows:-

Families surveyed involved marginal, small and medium farmers. It was found that most families use Khesari as dal and some use it in the form of besan and bread. It is reported that those who used Khesari in bulk quantities as food during 1974-75 food deficit period have suffered due to lathyrism. As per report of survey 15 people were found to be affected due to lathyrism. These were cases of 1974-75 and 1980-81. About 48% people surveyed were aware of the harmful affect of Khesari dal consumption.

It is to be mentioned that socio-epidemiological studies conducted in many other countries suggest that there is close association between consumption of Khesari Dal and Lathyrism in human beings.

(d) The ban of the sale and storage for sale of Khesari dal has been in operation since 1961 under Rule 44-A of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act.

Crop Insurance Scheme

261. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL

SHRI S. S. OWAISI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the time by which modified comprehensive crop insurance scheme is likely to be launched;
- (b) whether the Government have decided to send its team to France, South Africa, Australia and Philippines to study the crop insurance system in these countries; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and further benefits likely to be given to Indian farmers as compared to those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) It is proposed to launch the modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (MCCIS) from the Kharif, 1999 season.

- (b) No decision in this regard has been taken as yet.
- (c) Does not arise.