

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) Notwithstanding the reply to the question, the Government is taking following preventive steps to ensure that farm produce do not have residues of pesticides beyond the permissible levels:—

- (i) Registration of pesticide is a mandatory requirement under the purview of Insecticides Act, 1968. The Registration Committee Constituted under the Act grants the registration for manufacture, import and use of pesticides. The Committee has laid down comprehensive technical guidelines stipulating data requirement *inter-alia* terminal pesticides residues on agricultural commodities/farm produce. The pesticides having terminal residues less than the prescribed limit at the time of harvest are only registered for use.
- (ii) As a part of mandatory requirement under the Act, approved label/leaflet by the Committee printed in Hindi, English and in one of the regional languages accompany each container of pesticides. The leaflet contain various vital information on use of pesticides *inter-alia* safety, interval between last spray and the harvest of agricultural produce to avoid any possible hazard to the consumer.
- (iii) The Government is promoting Integrated Pest Management which relies more on non-chemical method of pest control and use of biorational like botanicals, biocides etc. As a last resort safer chemical pesticides are recommended for judicious use to avoid terminal residues of such chemicals in agricultural commodities and environment. Consequently, consumption of chemical pesticides in the country has shown downward trend during last 3 years.

Mineral Water Project

3309. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether mineral water market is growing at the rate of 40% and estimated current investment is Rs. 300 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether National Dairy Development Board has launched its own brand of mineral water;

(d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent it is likely to help NDDDB in its finances; and

(e) the steps taken for its competition in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The sales turnover of the mineral water industry is estimated at Rs. 300 crores and the market is growing approximately at 40% per annum.

(c) to (e) : The NDDDB has launched a mineral water project under the brand name "Jal Dhara" using the facilities at the Alwar Milk Union in Rajasthan. Jal Dhara is priced lower than the price fixed by its competitors. The project is expected to help the Alwar Union to generate additional income and help in its rehabilitation efforts.

[Translation]

Safai Karamcharies

3310. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI D.P. YADAV :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Safai Karamcharis identified under the national scheme for emancipation and rehabilitation of safai karamcharis and their dependents, Statewise;

(b) the State provided with assistance under the said scheme and the States who have not been provided with assistance;

(c) whether the Government propose to implement the said scheme in Bihar also;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The number of Safai Karamcharis identified so far, Statewise, as reported by the States/UTs under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents, are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The details are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. So far, the following amounts have been released to the State of Bihar as Central Assistance under the scheme:—

Year	Amount released (Rs. in Lakhs)
1991-92	350.00
1992-93	313.00
1993-94	Nil
1994-95	Nil
1995-96	Nil
1996-97	Nil

(e) Question does not arise.

Statement I

State-wise number of Safai Karamcharis Identified

Sl. No.	State/U.T Admn.	No. of Scavengers Identified
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7453
2.	Assam	16873
3.	Bihar	40249
4.	Gujarat	62842
5.	Haryana	25279
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4760
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	4150
8.	Karnataka	14555
9.	Kerala	1339
10.	Madhya Pradesh	80072

1	2	3
11.	Maharashtra	126691
12.	Orissa	19103
13.	Punjab	31290
14.	Rajasthan	57736
15.	Tamil Nadu	35561
16.	Uttar Pradesh	246916
17.	West Bengal	30000
18.	Delhi	17420
19.	Nagaland	1800
20.	Meghalaya	607
21.	Pondicherry	476
22.	Sikkim	400
Total		825572

Statement II

Details of States/U.T. Admns. provided with Assistance and not Provided with Assistance

States/U.T Admns. provided with Assistance	States/U.T. Admns. not Provided with Assistance
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh
Assam	Goa
Bihar	Manipur
Gujarat	Mizoram
Haryana	Sikkim
Himachal Pradesh	Tripura

1	2
Jammu & Kashmir	Andaman & Nicobar Admn.
Karnataka	Chandigarh
Kerala	Dadra & Nagar Haveli
Madhya Pradesh	Daman & Diu
Maharashtra	Lakshdweep
Orissa	
Punjab	
Rajasthan	
Tamil Nadu	
Uttar Pradesh	
West Bengal	
Delhi	
Pondicherry	
Nagaland	
Meghalaya	

[English]

Misappropriation of Funds in Super Bazar

3311. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a news item captioned "CBI frames 5 officials of Super Bazar" appearing in the *Times of India* dated April 15, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the amount of fraud, misappropriation of funds which came to the notice of the Government;

(d) whether any FIR has been lodged in this regard;

(e) whether these officers have not been suspended even after the registration of FIR by the CBI; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to information furnished by the Super Bazar, Delhi, the surprise check and inspection conducted by the Vigilance Department of their branch at New Friends Colony, Delhi, had revealed that branch officials of the Super Bazar through connivance and conspiracy as well as manipulation committed various acts of commission and omission resulting in mis-appropriation and stock shortages amounting to Rs. 6,17,094.67. On the basis of the above findings, 5 officials of the Super Bazar, Delhi working in that branch during the period were put under suspension on 4.11.96.

(d) to (f) In view of the seriousness of the matter, the Super Bazar Management referred the case to the CBI which has registered an FIR on 24.4.1997 involving 3 officials who were already under suspension and two more accounts officials pertaining to the Regional Distribution Centre of Super Bazar at Trilok Puri.

[Translation]

Guidelines for OBC Certificates

3312. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines prescribed for getting Other Backward Caste certificates for the people;

(b) whether any time limit has been fixed for the scrutiny of such requests; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The guidelines for getting Other Backward Caste certificate has been prescribed and circulated to all State Governments/Union Territories as at Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) No Sir, since issuance of OBC certificate falls under the purview of the respective State Governments and Union Territory Administration, they are expected to issue these certificates in the shortest possible time after conducting necessary verifications.