

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) The supply of urea in Andhra Pradesh during Kharif 1996 and Rabi 1996-97 (Up to 31.1.1997) is as under :-

	('000 tonnes)		
	Assessed requirement	Supply	Consumption
Kharif 1996	953.50	1026.18	991.38
Rabi 1996-37	1020.00	890.32 (up to 31.1.97)	690.78 (Sales up to 31.1.97)

Environmental Clearance

513. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated modalities for delegation of powers to State Governments for according environmental clearance to power projects, and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Modalities for delegation of powers to State Governments for according environmental clearance to power projects are still under finalisation.

Quota of Rice to Kerala

514. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to enhance the quota of rice for Kerala in view of the "Vishu" festival and coming monsoon;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No request has been received from the Govt. of Kerala for increasing quota of rice in connection with "Vishu" festival and coming monsoon.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Tin Plates

515. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the tin-plates imported in the country include painted tin-plates as well;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that these painted tin-plates are being used for the production of edible oil containers and these containers are being sold to wholesale and retail traders for packing of the edible oils;

(c) whether the paint gets dissolved in the edible oil thereby destroying its quality;

(d) whether the Government have received complaints from the Members of Parliament and others in this regard.

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action being taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (f) Government has received complaints from Shri Sushil Chandra Verma, M.P., the Indian Tin Plates Manufacturers Association and J & K Ex-serviceman Cooperative Societies, Jammu alleging the use of imported coloured tin plates in fabricating tin containers for packing edible oil and vanaspati and the resultant harmful effects of using such tin plates.

A number of steps have been taken by Government to ensure proper quality of tins. The measures initiated are as follows :-

- (i) The use of only new tin containers for packing of vanaspati and other vegetable oil products has been laid down vide this Ministry's order dated 1st November, 1995. These orders have been communicated to agencies like the Health Ministry, field officers of the Directorate of Vanaspati, Vegetable Oils and Fats and representatives of the Oil Industry for Compliance and enforcement. This Ministry again advised the associations representing the Oil Industry and Trade in June, 1996 for strict implementation of the orders and necessary action against the erring/defiant units.
- (ii) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules have been amended by the Health Ministry vide notification dated 4.8.1995 so as to allow the use of only new tin containers for packing of edible oils and fats.
- (iii) The Directorate of Marketing and Inspection Under the Ministry of Rural Development has also be advised to exercise due caution at the grading station to ensure that sub-standard tins are not used for packing edible oils.
- (iv) The Secretaries in-charge of Food and Civil