

(c) A survey was carried out by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi in various parts of the National Capital Territory and test purchases by decoy customers were carried out at 63 Chemist shops, out of which three retailers supplied Tedegestic/Norphin injections without a prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner. Action under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 has been initiated against the defaulting retailers.

Environmental Havoc

5785. SHRI MADHABA SARDAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Sponz Iron Plant, IPITATA has created environmental havoc in the industrial town Joda of Keonjhar district in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether any programme has been formulated for the control of environmental pollution; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) The sponge iron plant, IPITATA, at Joda in Orissa has a gas cleaning system and the emissions remain within the prescribed standards. The scrubbed liquid of the gas cleaning plant is treated in a settling tank before discharge into the nearby storm water drain. No water is used for the process in the plant. As such, water pollution is almost negligible. The solid waste generated by the plant, which is non-toxic, is being disposed in the plant's own land.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Fertilizer Unit

5786. SHRI DHARMA BHIKSHAM : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state whether State Government of Andhra Pradesh requested Union Government to recommend M/s. South India Fertilizers & Industries Ltd., fertiliser unit project to the Director General of Foreign Trade for making it eligible for the "deemed export benefit"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : The Department of Fertilizers have already communicated its recommendation to Director General of Foreign Trade for considering the proposed project for deemed export benefits under the existing Exim policy. This has also been communicated to the Government of Andhra Pradesh on 2.1.1997.

[Translation]

Improvement of Krishi Vigyan Kendras

5787. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether on a suggestion of the then Agriculture Minister, the local Members of Parliament visited the Krishi Vigyan Kendras established in their States during March/April, 1996 for suggesting improvement measures to be taken in these kendras;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the suggestions made by them during their visit, State-wise; and

(c) the details of suggestions implemented so far out of them till date?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTIONS AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture has constituted a Social Audit Committee on KVKs for Transfer of Technology in Eastern India during August, 1996.

(b) The Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Raj Nath Singh, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (RS); Shri Ambika Prasad, Hon'ble MLA, Bihar; Dr. S.C. Jha, Former Director, Asian Development Bank; Shri G. Krishnan, Agril. Production Commissioner, Government of Bihar as members and Assistant Director General (KVK) as Member-Secretary.

The terms of reference of Social Audit Committee include:

- (i) to assess the investments made in the development of technology.
- (ii) to review the achievements in technology generated and its practical utility.
- (iii) to assess the transfer of technology in farmers particularly small and marginal and the benefits to them by adopting the technology.
- (iv) ascertaining the level of technology adoption and pinpointing the efforts/constraints if the level of adoption of the technology is low.
- (v) to examine the linkages and coordination among Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, State Departments, State Agril. Universities, ICAR

Institutes, Non-Government Organisation etc. for sustenance of the technology generation, adoption and continuous refinement of technology and improvement of socio-economic conditions of farmers, particularly the small and marginal farmers.

(c) The Committee has planned to visit, Assam, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Sikkim, Eastern U.P. and Eastern M.P. The Committee will offer its suggestions after the completion of the visits.

[English]

Setting up of Third Check Post at Border

5788. SHRI JAY SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal to the Union Government for setting up the third Home Guards checkpoint at the border adjoining Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision of the Union Government thereon;

(d) the number of proposals lying pending for consideration with the Central Government; and

(e) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MODH. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, a request has been received from the State Government of Gujarat to consider the proposal for raising 3rd battalion of Border Wing Home Guards. The State Government is seeking to supplement the police presence by raising another battalion of Border Wing Home Guards to curb anti-smuggling operations and other subversive activities. The proposal is under examination of the Government.

Prices of Chilli

5789. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Spices Board is planning to open an office at Guntur in Andhra Pradesh to undertake programmes to educate the farmers and traders on the benefits of better post-harvest operations to arrest chilli prices;

(b) whether there has been considerable fall in the chilli prices;

(c) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government decided to undertake corrective policy initiatives in this direction;

(e) whether the Spices Board has also decided to make direct intervention in the market;

(f) whether the Government have also decided to take procurement operations through the Spice Trading Corporation, NAFED and MARKFED; and

(g) if so, the extent to which the decision would help the chilli farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Spices Board has opened an office at Guntur in Andhra Pradesh and posted an officer to look after various programmes of the Board relating to development and post harvest operations of chillies.

(b) Yes, Sir. There was fall in prices of chillies, i.e. in Guntur market from Rs. 3075/- per quintal in April, 1996 to Rs. 1713/- per quintal in March, 1997.

(c) The reasons for the decline in prices are:

(1) Increase in area under chillies cultivation resulting in increased production.

(2) Favourable north-east monsoon during 1996.

(3) Better prices prevailing in previous years which motivated the farmers to increase production both extensively and intensively.

(d) The Spices Board is taking various steps to promote export of chillies. The Ministry of Agriculture is also implementing Market Intervention Scheme for procurement of chillies in Andhra Pradesh during 1996-97.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) It has been decided to procure 10,000 metric tonnes of chillies, under Market Intervention Scheme, by NAFED and Andhra Pradesh MARKFED at the Market Intervention Price of Rs. 2250/- per quintal of Fair Average Quality of Chillies in andhra Pradesh. The Market Intervention Scheme is in operation from 5th March, 1997 and shall be continued upto 31st May, 1997. So far 2,167 tonnes of red chillies have been procured by NAFED and the State designated agency of Andhra Pradesh. This will save farmers from distress sale.

Outlets of Agros

5790. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an organisation called 'Agros' has accounted satisfactory impact in procuring agricultural inputs like fertilizers and pesticides at normal price to the farmers in some States;