

(a) whether mini-fertilizer plants have proved to be economically suitable for this country; and

(b) if so, the steps to be taken thereon in the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) The viability of mini-fertilizer plants is yet to be established.

(b) Does not arise.

Over Crowding in DTC Buses

10236. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is over crowding in the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses and Private/Mini buses under DTC operation in Delhi during peak hours;

(b) the action taken against them for violation of the rules; and

(c) the steps taken to check such over crowding, particularly in the context of the current terrorist wave of bomb blasts in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There have been instances of over-crowding in the buses. It has not been always possible for DTC to avoid the over-crowding in their buses particularly during peak hours, due to uni-directional pattern of traffic and inadequacy of buses. The Enforcement Branch of the Directorate of Transport, Delhi Administration and Delhi Police authorities have, however, been undertaking regular checks to check over-crowding and also to initiate corrective action including launching of prosecution.

(c) In order to reduce over-crowding, besides regular checks conducted by enforcement authorities of Delhi Administration and Delhi Police, constant efforts are being made by DTC for increasing its carrying capacity through better fleet utilisation and vehicle utilisation. The fleet utilisation has increased from 82.55% in 1987-88 to 86.75% in 1988-89 and 89.04% in 1989-90. The vehicle utilisation i.e. kilometres operated per bus daily has also increased from 210 kms. in 1987-88 to 221 Kms. in 1988-89 and 233 Kms. in 1989-90.

Drilling Rigs to Madhya Pradesh

10237. SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of villages in Madhya Pradesh are badly affected by drinking water shortage due to scanty rains this year;

(b) whether Madhya Pradesh Government has urged Union Government to spare as many drilling rigs as possible; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) The State Government has reported that out of 71352 villages, about 6310 villages which are affected by drinking water shortage are to be covered under the Scarcity Programme. Apart from this, there are about 146 'No Source' problem villages (PVs) and 5870 partially covered PVs to be provided with safe drinking water facilities during 1990-91 under the normal plan programmes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) This is the peak season for drilling of

bore wells in most of the States like Rajasthan, Gujarat, etc., which have drinking water supply problem of their own. State Government has been advised to contact the other States directly. The Central Ground Water Board has however, agreed to divert two DTH and one rotary rig for carrying out the drilling programme in Madhya Pradesh on payment of cost. The State Government has also been advised to use 70-80 drilling rigs available with the irrigation agencies for its emergent drinking water programme.

Shortage of Drinking Water in Kolhapur District of Maharashtra

10238. SHRI UDAISINGRAO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is acute shortage of drinking water in Kolhapur District of Maharashtra; and

(b) whether Government propose to allocate special funds to Maharashtra to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) No such report has been received from the Government of Maharashtra.

(b) Does not arise.

Construction of Pune-Bypass

10239. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has in November, 1989 submitted a proposal for construction of Pune-bypass connecting Pune Solapur and Bombay-Pune-Kolhapur National Highways;

(b) if so, whether Union Government have sanctioned the Project; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b). The proposal for the alignment of Pune-bypass connecting Pune-Solapur Road (NH.9) and Bombay-Pune-Kolhapur Road (NH.4) received from the Maharashtra Government has been approved in principle in January, 1990. Also provision has been made in the Annual Plan 1990-91 for sanction of land acquisition for this bypass at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.00 lakhs.

(c) Does not arise.

Pilot Projects on Pesticide used for Agriculture

10240. SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether use of DDT is likely to be phased out in view of the success achieved by the Pilot Project started by Government at Cochin;

(b) if so, the time-frame for phasing out of DDT and emergence of biocides;

(c) whether similar pilot projects have been conceived for other pesticides in use in India for agriculture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, pesticide-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR). (a) and (b). Under Department of Biotechnology funded Project at Anna University, Madras, Biocides formulation has been