

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri A. N. Singh Deo.....

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. N. SINGH DEO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Minister aware that there is shortage of Palmolein oil in Orissa due to non-release of quota for the last three months?

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: Sir, for the month of February, 1200 MT of palmolein oil has been allotted to Orissa. *(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if there is any Government worth the name, it has failed to control the prices. I will like to cite the instance of Madhya Pradesh. Wheat and sugar quotas have been fixed for the State. In Madhya Pradesh 50 grams sugar is being given per head. I would like to know whether the Government considers this quantity sufficient... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: I would like to tell that Oil Corporation has increased the prices of the edible oil being sold with the brand name of 'Dhara'. Can you give even a single example where the prices might have come down....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: She is asking about the situation in Madhya Pradesh.

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the supply of wheat has been augmented for Madhya Pradesh according to their demand and 1200 tonnes of popollne oil have been supplied to them in the month of February. We will keep on supplying this in future also...

(Interruptions)[*English*]

SHRI K. S. RAO: Sir, we might not be manufacturing the missiles and the atomic weapons. But our farmers have got all the capacity to produce pulses required in the country. There is not any shortage in this regard. But I am sorry that pulses are being imported from outside thereby the farmers are foregoing right price for pulses in this country. So, I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether he promises or recommends from his Agriculture Ministry to assure the remunerative prices to the farming community of this country and also seen that the production is immediately increased and supplied through the public distribution system.

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: Sir, the farmers are getting remunerative prices for pulses because the prevailing prices in the market are much higher than the minimum support prices announced by the Government. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Next Question-Shri Kailash Meghwal.

(Interruptions)[*Translation*]

Effect of Chemical and Biological Weapons Used In Gulf War

*65. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study has been made in regard to the likely immediate and long-term effects of threatened use of chemical and biological weapons in the Gulf war on the human and animal life in the Indian sub-continent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the immediate and

long-term steps proposed to be taken to neutralise the effects thereof, if any?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The consequences of the use of chemical and biological weapons will depend on the nature of such weapons and the scale of their use. It is difficult at this stage to make any realistic assessment in this regard. Moreover, Indian Council of Medical Research is of the view that considering the distance separating the theatre of operations from India, it is extremely unlikely that our country will suffer any adverse affect on this account.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I had asked a very important question. The moment the possibilities of outbreak of a world war.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Subhasini Ali Ji, please keep quiet.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: The whole of the world is worried over the effect of those weapons which are likely to be used in the war. If the threats which were held out are any indication, there were talks of using two types of weapons and accordingly oil was flowed in the sea and oil-wells were put on fire. This oil slick is likely to have fatal effect on the flora and fauna on the sea shores. The smoke emitting from the oil well's fire would also have fatal effect. Chemical and biological weapons have not been used so far but if it does, as the situation has developed today, we can well imagine its results. In view of this situation, why Government of India did not consider it fit to cause a study to be made of the likely effect of the use of these weapons. It is a grave mistake whether the Govern-

ment of India propose to have this serious matter studied even now?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDER SINGH): This is wrong to say that the Government of India did not make a study of the likely effect of the use of weapons in case of war. A comprehensive study is being made and the Ministry of Environment have asked other Ministries such as Department of Science, Department of oceanography and Meteorological Department to closely Monitor any adverse effect likely to be caused by the use of such weapons or by oil slick. Our experts are constantly studying this to see whether any water pollution or any other pollution is caused by it. Our studies so far have revealed that it would not have any adverse effect in India. Therefore, it is not correct to say that it will have any adverse effect in India.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. Protection in the sense that in reply to my question Hon'ble Minister has said 'No, Sir'. I want to read out that question which consist of two lines and in reply to which he has stated, that no study has been made. My first question was that "whether a study has been made in regard to the likely immediate and long-term effects of threatened use of chemical and biological weapons in the Gulf War on the human and animal life in the Indian sub-continent? "Just now he has stated that a study is being made while in the written answer he has stated 'No, Sir', But replying to the supplementary question he has said 'Yes'.

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly accept whatever he is saying now. Now put another question.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: My second question is that many countries of the world such as America, Britain, U.S.S.R. and other developed and developing countries have made a study about the possible effects of chemical and biological weapons on human life and in the conclusion of this study an apprehension is expressed about its pos-

sible effect on Indian sub-continent, I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister that whether he propose to take any step keeping in views the conclusions drawn on the basis of all those studies made by the world Medical Scientists, Chemical Scientists and by other world organisations that Indian Sub-Continent will be affected by these developments?

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: I want to tell the Hon'ble Members that his first question is

[English]

whether a study has been made in regard to the likely immediate and long term effects of threatened use of chemical and biological weapons in the Gulf-War on the human and animal life in the Indian sub continent.

[Translation]

Many advanced institutes have no knowledge about the composition of biological and chemical weapons. They do not have any information about the nature of lethal lethal weapons a particular country possesses. In views of this it is not possible to study their effect. Unless it is known as to which type of weapons are being used, their effect cannot be ascertained. I have stated this thing in reply to the question. However, it is a fact that according to our study the remoteness of war theatre eliminates changes of even little effect of the use of these chemical and biological weapons in India.

[English]

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: There have been Treaties and agreements between the two Super powers-Soviet Union and the United States-on the abolition of weapons of mass destructions including chemical weapons and how do the Government see the agreements between the two Super powers and the effectiveness of those agreements, in view of the threat to use these weapons in the Gulf war?

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: Sir, I would

request you to ask the hon. Member to address this question to the Defence Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir through you I want to know from Hon'ble Minister who has stated that India will not be affected on account of this but newspapers are repeatedly reporting that India and even Burma will be affected by it because of Gulf War. Besides other living beings and vegetations are likely to be affected by it. In this situation which statement should be taken as correct?

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: According to the study made by our Meteorological Department this oil sick is not likely to have any effect on the monsoon of India.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had told that the Minister of Railway would be here but he has not come so far. That is why we are forced to sit in the well.

At this stage Shri Harish Rawat and Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam came and sat on the floor near the table

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: SHRI P.M. Sayeed. Next question.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Question No. 66. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear Mr. Rajmangal Pande.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Is he answering on his behalf?

**Exchange of Cultural Delegations
between India and China**

*66. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: