

ALAM): (a) to (c). The exports of Polyester-Viscose blended yarn and fabrics are allowed on O.G.L. basis, and there are no hurdles in respect of the Export Policy for these items. According to the figures maintained by the Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, the exports of Polyester-Viscose blended fabrics have increased from 1.91 crores in 1986-87 to Rs. 832 crores in 1988-89 and that the exports of Synthetic Blended Yarn (including Polyester-Viscose) have increased from a level of Rs. 1.35 crores in 1986-87 to Rs. 48.79 crores in 1988-89. A number of Procedural simplifications have already been made and further procedural improvements are being made on a continuing basis.

[English]

Pesticide Residues in Apples

*939. **SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that apples are heavily contaminated by pesticides in the United States of America and Mexico which cannot be washed and thus pose a serious danger to human health, especially of children;

(b) whether the results of studies on pesticide residues conducted over the last ten to fifteen years by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research also show similar findings, if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether any prosecutions have been launched anywhere in India under the Prevention Adulteration Act, 1954 the Insecticides Act, 1968 or the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, for exceeding permissible prescribed limits of pesticide residues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) the Government has seen the press reports on alleged contamination of apples with pesticides in the United States of America and Chile.

(b) The results of studies on pesticide residues conducted over the last 10 to 15 years by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, have revealed that in majority of samples, residue levels are below the maximum prescribed limit.

(c) and (d). Samples analysed by all the States except Assam during the period 1984 and 1987 for presence of pesticide residues were found to have pesticide residues within the prescribed limit and hence no prosecution has been launched under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. In the State of Assam, 4 samples of wheat seed were found adulterated and appropriate corrective measures have been taken by the Government of Assam to ensure the same was not used for human consumption.

There is no report of prosecution under the Insecticide Act, 1968 or the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

Export of Shoddy Woollen Blankets

*940. **DR. T. KALPANA DEVI:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exports of shoddy woollen blankets have come down from Rs. 12 crores to Rs. 2 crores in the recent years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and-

(c) the steps being taken by Government to improve the export of shoddy blankets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE