

adequate allocations for the people of Tamilnadu are made. Perhaps, I said earlier also, all these deficit southern States—Tamilnadu, Kerala, they are getting huge quantities of food—130,000 tonnes of rice per month and that bears a subsidy of about Rs. 4 crores per month from the Central Government. It is such a huge quantity that it will not be possible to move it.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 104.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: I am not being allowed.

MR. SPEAKER: You may please co-operate with me so that I may be able to cover more questions.

#### Death due to poisonous pesticides

\*104. SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report of the World Health Organisation indicating that Five lakhs of persons die every year because of use of poisonous pesticides;

(b) whether Ministry of Agriculture or any State Government have provided a laboratory for testing pesticides which are used for protection of plants and crops in the country;

(c) whether Government of India recently appointed Five Regional Survey Committees of experts to find out the quality of pesticides provided to the farmers of the country;

(d) whether the above committees' interim reports reveal that 385 samples of pesticides were taken out of which 134 samples were chemically analysed of which 44 were found to be sub-standard and adulterated; and

(e) what action Government have taken against the manufacturing units and the sellers which were found in possession of sub-standard pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) The World Health Organisation has not issued any such report.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). The report of the Survey Team for the Eastern Zone is awaited. The Survey Teams for the Southern and the Western Zones did not take any sample. The Survey Teams for the Northern and the Central Zones took 131 samples of which 64 were found to be sub-standard. The samples were taken for the purposes of assessing status of the quality of pesticide. Since the formalities of taking samples for prosecution purposes were not satisfied in all the cases, the Teams did not suggest prosecution. However, the report of the Survey Teams for the Northern and Central Zones containing the particulars of the manufacturing and selling units found to be in possession of sub-standard pesticides, have been sent to the concerned State Governments for necessary action.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, very heinous crimes are being committed because of the use of poisonous pesticides.

MR. SPEAKER: We had a lot of discussion on this during the Calling Attention motion only the other day.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: There are some questions which arise out of the reply given to the present Question. The reply of the Government is:

"Since the formalities of taking samples for prosecution purposes were not satisfied in all the cases, the Teams did not suggest prosecutions"

This is quite a confusing answer. If the samples were taken legally and

results arrived at were valid, why were the prosecutions not launched against those concerns? I want a reply to that.

**RAO BIRENDRA SINGH:** The matter is not confusing at all as the hon. Member would understand. The requirement of taking samples for the purpose of prosecution, under the Act is that the samples have to be taken in the presence of certain witnesses. The officers of the Department for the enforcement of the Act in the State have also to accompany the sample taking team. The police personnel also are required to be with them. These teams were appointed only for the purpose of knowing the present status of quality control in various parts of the country. Our purpose was not to catch hold of the people who were indulging in mal-practices but to find out what was the situation prevailing and how it could be improved. In all the cases where legal formalities have been met, we have reported to the State Governments the facts about each sample wherever it has been analysed and, we hope the State Governments will take action in the matter of prosecution.

**SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV:** Secondly, the reply given by the hon. Minister to part (b) of my Question is incomplete. The question is:

“(b) whether Ministry of Agriculture or any State Government have provided a laboratory for testing pesticides which are used for protection of plants and crops in the country”;

The reply is:

“Yes, Sir.”

That is the only reply given. I wanted to know whether laboratories have been set up by the Government of India and whether all the States and Union Territories have also set up laboratories for testing pesticides. The reply is incomplete. Will the

hon. Minister tell us as to how many States and Union Territories have set up laboratories to test pesticides the spurious pesticides which have caused crores of rupees loss to the farmers of this country?

**RAO BIRENDRA SINGH:** Sir, as you rightly remarked, a lot of discussion has taken place on the Calling Attention motion and I have given replies to almost all these questions. If the hon. Member wants to know again, I say, there are 26 laboratories set up by the States in India. There are 3 laboratories set up by the Government of India. Five more laboratories are proposed to be set up by the Government in different regions. We also want to set up regional stations for surprise check in various States. The total capacity in all these 26 laboratories and 3 Central laboratories in the country today for analysing samples is, 32,000 samples. Actually what has been provided as a rule is that one sample per tonne of pesticides/insecticides used in the country shall be analysed. So far we do not have the required capacity. I have also stated that certain States have not set up any laboratory. Certain States have not taken any sample during the last 2-3 years. I gave figures for 1979-80. When I said that very few samples were analysed and very few prosecutions were launched, that was during the period of the previous regime. But now we want to streamline the whole system of controlling the quality of this important item used by our farmers.

**Irrigation projects affected by short supply of building materials**

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\*107. **SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:**

**SHRI DHARAMBIR SINHA:**

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether it is a fact that a shortfall in the supply of building materials has adversely affected a