

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE: At the moment, there is no proposal

SHRI D. N. TIWARY: May I know whether due to the experience of taking over the foodgrains trade last year, the Government is now hesitant to take over the foodgrains trade? Are the government aware of distress sales by small farmers due to necessity at lower prices? Have Government devised any scheme to buy foodgrains from them at proper prices?

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE: Government would not like the small farmers to effect distress sales. In fact, our policy is very clear. We would like to purchase foodgrains from small or any farmer not only at support price but even at procurement prices, which have already been announced

SHRI D. N. TIWARY: What about the first part of my question?

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE: About taking over the foodgrains trade I have already replied to the other member who put the same question.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA: The minister had stated that at the moment they are not considering any new change in the policy. In view of the fact that several States are facing famine and the public distribution system in Kerala has collapsed due to the failure of the Centre to send the promised quantity of rice, why is the Government so adamant to pursue a policy which has already failed?

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE: I do not understand the implication of his question. He is over simplifying the problem. If taking over would have provided a solution to all the problems, Government would have been very happy, but Government does not accept that assessment. About Kerala, it would be totally incorrect to say that there has been total dislocation of supplies to Kerala. There has not been dislocation because the total level of allotment to the State Government has been maintained at a much higher

level. About 87,000 tonnes of foodgrains are being supplied to Kerala.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA: The State Chief Minister has said that this month instead of 80,000 tonnes of rice promised, they have been given only 25,000 tonnes.

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE: In respect of rice, the shortfall has been made up by wheat. Thus, the total quantity of foodgrains has been maintained. There has been no dislocation. I do not think the conditions in the country are such that we can ask for the foodgrain of our choice.

FAOs warning regarding pesticide shortage
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*83. **SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:**
SHRI PURUSHOTTAM
KAKODKAR.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food and Agriculture Organisation has warned of serious pesticide shortage in the world and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha

Statement

(a) Yes Sir The Food and Agriculture Organisation has given a warning of a likely global shortage of pesticides in the coming year

(b) To meet this likely global shortage of pesticides, the Government of India are taking special steps to maximise indigenous production and bulk import of pesticides through the State Trading Corporation. The Government

of India have also taken steps to rationalise the internal distribution of available pesticides within the country. To minimise the use of pesticides, the Government of India have taken steps to establish pest surveillance forecasting and warning systems so that pest epidemics could be controlled before it assumes large proportions. The Government of India is also paying increasing attention to the biological control of pests, and thereby minimise the use of pesticides.

श्री अनादि चरण दास : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस के अन्दर जितनी पैस्टीसाइड की जरूरत है उस का उत्पादन देश में करने में क्या कठिनाइयाँ हैं? अपनी आवश्यकता के मुताबिक पैस्टीसाइड का उत्पादन क्यों नहीं होता है?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Many of the pesticides are petrochemical based and because of the energy crisis, some of the basic raw materials are scarce all over the world. But as far as the general programme of production is concerned, we are very much ahead. We are producing within the country large part of our requirements. Our future approach is also to see that to the extent possible we succeed in organising production programme in our country itself. But there are certain basic raw materials which are not available. That has been the difficulty, not the technical knowhow. In fact, we have enough technical knowhow.

श्री अनादि चरण दास : जो कैमिकल आप मंगाते हैं बाहर से वे कौनसी हैं और किन देशों से मंगाई जाती हैं?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: The chemicals are many. For instance BHC and DDT mainly we manufacture in the country and only a small portion is imported from USSR, USA, Poland and a number of other countries. Endrine, Carbaryl and Endosulfar we import from USA. There are

a few other chemicals which are imported from Western Europe.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: What is the total requirement of pesticides in the country and what is our production? What is the total value of the imports? When are we going to become self-sufficient in pesticides?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: There are different plant protection materials. BHC is a very important chemical where our requirement is 30,000 and we produce 24,000 tonnes. So, the shortfall is 6,000 tonnes. In the case of DDT our requirement is 7,500 tonnes and we produce 4,000 tonnes. Endrine is an item we import. In the case of carbaryl we import 5,000 tonnes and Endosulfar about 800 to 1,000 tonnes. Roughly, our broad requirement is 56,000 and we manufacture about 35,000 tones.

SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI: Just now the hon. Minister said the shortage of pesticides and raw materials is mainly petro-based. May I know whether any effort will be made to find out an alternative raw material for production of pesticides

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: It is a very difficult proposition. If such a raw material or feed stock is easily available, we would be very happy. Some research effort is going on but it is not that easy.

Committee on Development of Urdu

*85. **SHRI S. N. MISRA:** Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat Committee on Development of Urdu in the country has since submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the findings of the Committee; and

(c) Government's reaction in regard thereto?