

महोदय, देश के इन चिड़ियाघरों में न तो जानवरों की ब्रीडिंग हो रही है, न रिसर्च हो रही है। अगर यह सिर्फ शहरों के मनोरंजन का साधन है, तो क्या सरकार इस बात पर विचार करेगी कि कृषि विभाग का जो किसानों के हिस्से का पैसा है, उसमें से एक धेला भी इन पर खर्च न किया जाय, या तो शहरों के कारपोरेशन उसको मेन्टेन करें या टूरिज्म डिपार्टमेन्ट या अन्य किसी डिपार्टमेन्ट को सौंप दिये जायें। क्या सरकार इस सुझाव पर विचार करेगी ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : Funds are provided out of general revenue.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Out of the 19 white tigers in our zoos, 13 are in the Delhi zoo. Such a concentration in one place is undesirable in as much as if an epidemic breaks out or something happens, it will seriously endanger the entire species. Therefore, something should be done to disperse them in some fashion or other. Will the Minister say what he proposes to do in this regard ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : We shall consider the suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER : They may be dispersed to Punjab and Bombay.

Level of D. D. T. in human body due to its use in food preservation

*213. **SHRI BABURAO PATEL :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the views of Shri O. S. Bindra, an Indian Entomologist of Punjab Agricultural University at Ludhiana that the level of DDT in the human body in certain parts of North India is much higher than in other countries because of the contamination of food grains through excessive use of chemicals for food preservation; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to counteract the DDT level in the human body; and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE,

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Dr. O. S. Bindra has not communicated to the Government any special views regarding the level of DDT in the human body but it has been known for years now that the level of DDT accumulation in human body fat was reported to be quite high in 1965 on the basis of survey carried out mainly in Delhi area and these findings have been included in the Report of the ICAR Special Committee on Harmful Effects of Pesticides, published in 1967.

(b) (i) Even before detecting the accumulation of DDT in human fat, the Government Scientists have been aware of this regard. Therefore, mixing of persistent insecticidal chemicals for the preservation of foodgrains has never been recommended. Also successful efforts have been made to evolve the storage technology without the use of hazardous chemicals and the Pusa bins and Pusa cubicles are the results of such investigations. Some of the State Governments have already taken up a campaign to popularise these storage structures.

(ii) The ICAR had appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. M. S. Thacker to go into the details of harmful effects of pesticides and make suitable recommendations. The Committee submitted its report in 1966 which was published in 1967. One of the major recommendations was to set up Analytical Laboratories for estimation of pesticide residues at various centres in the country. Consequently, such laboratories were set up and are operating at the Central Food Technological Research Laboratory, Mysore; Central Plant Protection, Training Institute, Hyderabad and Central

Food Laboratory, Calcutta. The Indian Agricultural Research Institute has already been doing research work on pesticide residues and has also established a full fledged laboratory exclusively for this purpose. In addition, a Toxicology Research Unit has also been set up at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. The Punjab Agricultural University on its own, has also started researches on pesticide residues. The result of the researches carried out in these laboratories will form the guidelines for the Government to take appropriate steps to prevent harmful effects of pesticides. A Joint Committee of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Indian Council of Agricultural Research set up recently is also examining the need of intensification of researches to prevent the harmful effects of pesticides.

- (iii) Also there is 'Central Committee for Food Standards' created by the Ministry of Health and Family Planning under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, for fixing tolerance limits in food-grains. Stringent regulatory measures to implement these limits are being proposed under the new insecticide act. An official on special duty to implement these recommendations has been appointed in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

SHRI BABURO PATEL : I have seen the statement. It speaks about research but not of action. In America, from where DDT originally came, it has been discovered by research that it is a deadly cumulative poison and it has been banned in 28 States. At the same time, aerial spraying of crops with DDT has been stopped and no crops are now sprayed there. On the other hand, in our country, we have launched a massive programme of aerial spraying of crops with DDT. May I know whether this programme is intended to kill pests, or kill human beings with a view

to prevent a population explosion ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : We do appreciate the concern of the hon. member that there should not be indiscriminate use of pesticides. Government are already seized of the matter. Sometime ago there was even an international seminar which considered this matter. This hon. House has passed a pesticides law and we have appointed an officer on special duty to look into these aspects. Various other organisations have been undertaking research in this like the Mysore Food and Technological Research Institute, ICAR, Punjab University and a number of others. We are well aware of the problem and, as far as possible, our approach is not to have indiscriminate use of pesticides which may perhaps result in endangering human life.

SHRI BABURAO PATEL : I have here a tin of a proprietary product called "Flit" used for spraying on flies, insects etc. This Flit tin goes into millions of homes every month. On this tin is depicted the symbol of death the skull and crossed bones, and it is written : "Harmful. To be kept away from children. Avoid skin contact...etc. It is a most dangerous poison. It contains DDT." This warning is printed only in English, in a country where literacy in English is little over one per cent. I insist that orders should be issue that if this tin is to be distributed, at least it should have printed this warning on it in all the 14 languages so that people can know that the tin contains death and nothing else. Will Government do that ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : We are not concerned with it; we do not use it for spraying crops. He will have to address his question to the Health Ministry because we never use flit for crop protection.

SHRI BABURAO PATEL : What about protection of human life ?

SHRI PILOO MODY : That is not the concern of this Government.

श्री बलराज मधोक : जो स्टेटमेन्ट मन्त्री जी ने दिया है, उसमें उन्होंने जहाँ-जहाँ रिसर्च हो रही है, उसका व्यौरा दिया है। मैं जानना

चाहता हूँ कि जब इस सम्बन्ध में डिटेल्ड रिसर्च यू० एस० ए० में हो चुकी है, अन्य मुल्कों में हो चुकी है और उन्होंने सिद्ध कर दिया है कि यह चीज घातक है, इसका लाभ कम है, हानि अधिक है, तब फिर डुप्लीकेट रिसर्च करने का क्या लाभ है। आप उस रिसर्च का लाभ क्यों नहीं उठाते हैं? जब कोई चीज वहाँ पर डिस्कार्ड हो जाती है, तब यहाँ शुरू की जाती है। वहाँ डी० डी० टी० के कारखाने बन्द किये जा रहे हैं, लेकिन यहाँ चलाये जा रहे हैं। जब इसका नुकसान-देह प्रभाव है, तो इस प्रभाव को देखते हुए क्या सरकार नये कारखानों को बन्द करने और जो चल रहे हैं उनको डाइवर्सिफाई करने तथा जम्मू में जो रिसर्च लेबोरेट्री है वहाँ कुछ इन्सैक्टिसाइड्स निकले हैं जो कि मिनरल नहीं हैं, जिनके अन्दर हारमोन इफेक्ट कम है। तो इस प्रकार के इन्सैक्टिसाइड्स हैं जिनके अन्दर ये इफेक्ट नहीं हैं तो क्या उनको प्रचारित करने के लिए आप पग उठायेंगे ताकि ऐसा न हो कि कभी इस देश के अन्दर तबाही मच जाये और फिर उसके बाद रोना पड़े।

SHRI RANGA : Why don't you produce something which is better?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : We do not advise DDT for plant protection, and this question really concerns preservation of grains. As for the other question raised by him, our research organisations are in touch with research activities carried on in the USA and elsewhere. We are trying to utilise findings elsewhere, such knowledge which has to be used in the interests of humanity, and there is no bar on using such knowledge available elsewhere. The other part of the question whether the DDT factories should be stopped may be addressed to the Health Ministry.

SHRI KAMAL NAYAN BAJAJ : Can you not convey it to them?

श्री सरजू पाण्डेय : अध्यक्ष जी, इस रिपोर्ट में यह कहा गया है कि डी० डी० टी० का प्रभाव शरीर पर बुरा पड़ रहा है, खास तौर से

जो डी० डी० टी० का छिड़काव पौधों पर होता है और उसका अनाज आदमी खाते हैं तो उसके द्वारा डी० डी० टी० ह्यूमन बाँडी के अन्दर जा रही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ क्या सरकार पौधों पर डी० डी० टी० के छिड़काव को मना करेगी और उसकी जगह पर दूसरी दवाइयों का इस्तेमाल करेगी ताकि उसके बुरे प्रभाव को रोका जा सके?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह सवाल पैदा नहीं होता है।

श्री सरजू पाण्डेय : इसमें कहा गया है। सवाल ही यही है।...

श्री बलराज मधोक : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अमेरिकन रिसर्च ने सिद्ध किया है कि जिन ग्रेन्स पर डी० डी० टी० का इस्तेमाल किया जाता है, उसको जो लोग खाते हैं उनके ऊपर उसका असर पड़ता है।

MR. SPEAKER : This is about contamination of foodgrains, not of plants. This question should be relevant.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : The question really pertains to the preservation of foodgrains and the use of insecticides like DDT. I would like to submit categorically that our department does not advise the use of DDT for preservation of foodgrains.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR : It is known all over the world that DDT, when it goes beyond a certain percentage, has a toxic effect and does incalculable harm to the human system. Under these conditions, other countries, as has been already stated, have given up the use of DDT for plant protection. It is a very important matter, and the hon. Minister cannot just pass it on to the Health Ministry. I wish the Health Ministry had taken it up with the Food Ministry, but if they have not, it is for this Parliament to draw the attention of the Food Minister to the deleterious effects of DDT on foodgrains, and it is high time that we thought in terms of protecting our ill-fed people from the poisonous effects

of DDT from foodgrains. What the Government intends to do in this respect is of great interest to us, and we would like to know what the proposals are and how soon they would stop the use of DDT for plant protection.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I have already replied to the main points raised by the hon. Member. In fact, we do not advise DDT for plant protection as I have already mentioned, and various research activities are on. The hon. Member should not rush to conclusions,—I know she was once in charge of health—but the use of DDT is being discontinued.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR : It is not rushing to a conclusion.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : As I said, we are trying to be cautious about the matter, and under the Insecticides Act which has been enacted by the House, necessary steps are being taken to look into this matter.

SHRI P. GOPALAN : Many countries have already banned the use of DDT on the advice of medical experts that this insecticide is a major source of cancerous attack on the human body. Sometime back there was a report in the Indian press that the Government of India would also consider this question whether the use of DDT should be banned or not. Considering the vital role played by DDT in increased food production the Government of India decided not to ban it because according to them the percentage of people dying due to cancerous attack is much less than the percentage of people dying of hunger. I should like to know from the hon. Minister whether that is the reason why DDT has not been banned in this country?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I have already explained the position. I shall take up the matter again and we shall review it once more in consultation with the Health Ministry.

**Complaint by Members of Parliament
Regarding Inadequate Notice for
Disconnection of Telephones**

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*214. **SHRI YASHPAL SINGH :**
SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO :
SHRI P. K. DEO :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION

AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether many Members of Parliament have recently complained to his Ministry that the telephone authorities all over India do not give adequate notice to subscribers before disconnecting their telephones for non-payment of telephone bills; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by his Ministry to avoid such complaints in future?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING, AND IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI SHER SINGH) :** (a) No, Sir. However, at a recent meeting of the Consultative Committee, some Members of Parliament spoke of difficulties experienced due to sudden disconnections, and they were asked to quote specific cases, if any. Nothing has been heard from them so far.

(b) Does not arise.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : मैं हिन्दी समझता हूँ और मिनिस्टर साहब हिन्दी बोलते हैं। उनको हिन्दी में ही जवाब देना चाहिए। अगर मेरे से गलती हो गई हो, कोई सवाल अंग्रेजी में दे दिया हो तो मन्त्री महोदय का यह फर्ज नहीं है कि वह भी गलती करें।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : दोनों का बन्दोबस्त है। आप जरा कान में माइक लगाइये तो हिन्दी में भी आपको पता लग जायेगा। साथ-साथ हिन्दी में भी आ रहा है। (व्यवधान)...

श्री शेर सिंह : चूँकि सवाल अंग्रेजी में किया गया था इसलिए मैंने अंग्रेजी में उत्तर दिया। हिन्दी में भी दे रहा हूँ :

(क) जी हाँ। फिर भी सलाहकार समिति की हाल की बैठक में कुछ संसद् सदस्यों ने अचानक कनेक्शन काटे जाने के कारण अनुभव की जाने वाली कठिनाइयों का उल्लेख किया था। उनसे कहा गया था कि यदि कोई खास