

Regarding the steps which could be taken by the Government, they are mentioned in the Notification which was placed before the House.

So far as the other question is concerned, that does not come under our Department.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: The News-print Policy which was announced last year lays down that the accumulated unlifted or unallotted stocks should be released to the newspapers in a phased manner.

I would like to know from you whether all these stocks have been released or not?

SHRI A.K. PANJA. These are termed as 'backlogs' in the News-Print Policy.

Yes, the backlog is being cleared in a phased manner.

The first instalment has been released.

The standard was:

44,690.43 MT. - Standard quality

16,957.89 MT. - Glazed quality

TOTAL 61,648.32 MT.

The first instalment out of this is:

19,989.71 MT. - standard and

5,931.78 MT. - Glazed

TOTAL 25,921.49 MT.

So, out of the total backlog of 61,648.32 MT. we have already serviced the first instalment, i.e. 21,921.49 MT.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: May I know from you whether all these are indigenous?

SHRI. A.K. PANJA: No only standard is indigenous.

Licensing Norms for Milk Products and Malted Foods Manufacturing Industry

*394. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK†:
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the licensing norms governing the milk products and malted foods manufacturing industry; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such review and the decisions taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G.S. DHILLON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The guidelines aim at planned and organised development of milk products manufacturing industry in the country. It has been decided that the highest priority for future capacity for the manufacture of milk products and malted milk foods should be accorded to cooperative and public sectors.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister, the total number of manufacturing industries in the country and the present production capacity of the milk products and malted milk foods in the country?

DR. G.S. DHILLON: He has asked about the total number. I will give the licensed capacity of milk powder production of both public/cooperative sector, and of the private sector. For the former, in Milk powder it is 1,16,764 tonnes and for the private sector 15,199 tonnes. The total licensed capacity of this is thus 1,31,963 tonnes.

Regarding milk food in public/cooperative sector it is 69,950 tonnes, in private sector 21,073 tonnes and the total is 91,023 tonnes. I think he has asked for this information.

I can give information about condensed milk and the malted milk food also, if he wants. In the case of public/cooperative sector, the licensed capacity of condensed milk is 11,400 tonnes, and that of malted milk food is 8,700 tonnes. In the private sector, condensed milk has a licensed capacity of 9,386 tonnes, and malted milk food 26,714 tonnes. The total licensed capacity of condensed milk is 20,786 tonnes, and that of malted milk food 35,414 tonnes.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: May I know from the hon. Minister what the indigenous consumption is, and whether the existing industries are adequate to meet it? If not, what is the programme before the Government in the 7th Plan?

DR. G.S. DHILLON: So far as the consumption is concerned, I have just mentioned that there have been various agencies like NDDB, Delhi Milk Scheme and others. I have no figures of the total number individual agencies. I have just mentioned the cumulative figures.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Has the broad banding scheme been extended to milk products? If so, are infant milk food and baby food also included in the group of products which are broad banded? I would also like to know: in view of the acute scarcity conditions in the country-and there is an acute shortage of milk whether there is any policy under consideration to restrict production of certain non-priority products by these milk processing industries.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: I have just to say that we cannot allow private producers in the Operation Flood areas. We had Operation

Flood I, II and III; and there has been a tremendous growth in production during these Operation Floods-not the other floods, but Operation Floods, But so far as production by private producers is concerned, that also is routed through cooperatives and others.

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH: Government of India is a signatory to the World Health Organization's agreement to encourage breast-feeding and to discourage these baby foods. Accordingly, advertisements of these have also been banned. A Bill has been passed in the last Session, and the Central Government has issued guidelines. No new capacity for baby food in the private sector should be sanctioned, in the Operation Flood areas. Is it a fact that in spite of these guidelines, there is a violation by the issue of a licence to produce baby food, milk powder and malted milk powder to Messrs. Jiwan Milk and Allied Specialities Ltd. in Punjab? These guidelines have been violated in spite of the strong opposition by the Punjab Government. Similarly, a letter of intent has been issued to Messrs. Food Specialities for increasing baby food production from the existing 10,000 tonnes to 15,300 tonnes, violating the recent guidelines. In this case, the norms and guidelines providing for an increase of 5% per annum over the existing licensed capacity, from the year it was sanctioned, has also been violated. Why?

DR. G.S. DHILLON: I quite agree with the usefulness and nutritional value of breast-feeding to babies. Baby food used to be there earlier. But recently, we have banned its production. As far as the individual case of Jiwan Product is concerned, I have no information; but I can enquire about that. That government which went against it, in one case they were for it in other case they were opposed to it. If he wants to know as to what the Punjab Government wrote about it, I can just enquire into it rather than give him

off hand reply, about which the press may not be having real facts as reported by them. The proposal of M/s Jiwan Milk and Allied Specialist Ltd. for expanding the validity of industrial licence was considered and it was recommended to the Department of Industrial Development after obtaining the approval of the competent authority to extend the validity period; they only wanted validity of the period which was forwarded to the Industry Department; and the proposal was also considered in the Licensing Committee of the Industry Department. I think that factor of banning the production of baby food may have been taken into consideration. But I will get the full information from the Industry Department and pass on that to you.

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH: The allegations are serious and I have given you the full facts. Kindly enquire into them and let me know the full position about them.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: The ban was there on the baby food of course some time back; and I think that ban was kept in view while clearing it. We will certainly look into it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Is it not a fact that there is a pressing need for food particularly in the rural area and also urban poor. There are a large number of private industries as well as multinationals which are having production of milk far excess of the licensed capacity permitted; if it is so, particularly in view of the drought conditions in the country wherein there is a scarcity of milk for the rural as well as urban areas, will you try to prevent those private industries as well as multi-nationals who are actually flouting your guidelines for the licensed capacity and have far excess production so that poor people will be able to meet the need of their milk.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: Normally the rule is that we procure it through the cooperatives and the public sector. As far as multi-nation-

als are concerned, we, of our own, have not taken up any case. It is only the State Government concerned where they are situated only if they write about that then we consider such cases. We normally tell those States that these are the conditions, this is the licensed production and they should look into them. If there is any lapse anywhere, I will be very happy to go into it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: There are heavy lapses on this score. Kindly go through them through your authority and you will find that they are flouting all the ceiling that you have fixed up for the licensed capacity.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: Flouting or whatever we may call it, Punjab Government, the State Government is recommended every time.....(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: There is the President's Rule there.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: I am here only to ask my question. (*Interruptions*)

DR. G.S. DHILLON: I did not ask you for that.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He has forgotten that he is no more there in the Punjab.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: 395.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: I thought that he was defending his erstwhile government.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He is doing both-defending me as well as asking his question.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: It is his duty to defend his erstwhile? government.

[*Translation*]

Import of Sunflower Seeds

*395 SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA†:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Union Government have recently imported sunflower seeds;
- (b) if so, the quantity and value thereof;
- (c) whether the experts had explored the possibilities of their growing it in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G.S. DHILLON): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Union Government have recently imported 35 MT of "Improved Peredovik" variety from Russia. The cost of seed was Rs. 3.27 lakhs.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. A small quantity was first obtained and put under trial. It was found to be sufficiently promising to warrant a larger multiplication programme resulting in the above import.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: The point is, the cultivation of sunflower can be made popular in the country and according to reports, there is a steep shortfall between the target and production of seeds. The target for the production of the sunflower seeds was 5.25 MT but the production was only 5.15 MT in 1984-85 and

3.21 MT in 1985-86; there as a huge shortfall. My point is that it is an admitted fact that to offset the effects of drought, many State Governments recommended the cultivation of sunflower because it takes only 85 days to get the crop matured. Twelve thousand growers were looking forward for the supply of seed in Punjab. Originally there was a plan to bring 6,000 acres of land under sunflower cultivation and the Punjab farmers demanded hybrid sunflower seeds. Instead of supplying for 6,000 acres it was supplied only for 650 acres and even the supply was given to only influential persons. Only influential people could get it and that was also some quantity of old seeds with low germination value mixed with new seeds and they were sold to farmers in new bags. When there was a huge demand and when it was planned to offset the affects of drought and also recommended by the Agricultural universities that it can be grown in a short period-because paddy takes too much water and too much time - why did the Government of India not import sufficient quantity of sunflower seeds?

DR. G.S. DHILLON: I have just noted his speech. But I am trying to find out what is the exact question. It was only when we decided that sunflower should be made an essential crop for oilseeds that you asked this question about import of Russian seeds and its multiplication. It is only because we needed a high quality seed that we have experimented with certain sunflower seeds of various countries, Russia being one of them. When we brought this Peredovik variety even for these 35 tonnes that we imported we had to pay the airfreight and bring it by air so that the seed can be multiplied for the coming Rabi. If it had not been brought by air the whole Rabi would have been missed. We gave you four tonnes out of that. But be sure that it is just to accommodate the States and supply has been made to the possible extent. We are taking up the four stages of development of the seeds. Nucleus, that is