

(c) and (d) SAIL/DSP regulate the payments to M/s. BTS and M/s. Mannesmann Demag of Germany in accordance with the provisions of the contracts and on the basis of progress made. The cumulative payments made by SAIL/DSP to M/s. BTS are Rs. 136 crores out of a total contract value of Rs. 461.60 crores, and to M/s. Mannesmann Demag Rs. 153 crores out of a total contract value of Rs. 309.63 crores.

The scheduled date of completion of the total project for the Durgapur Steel Plant modernisation is March, 1993. Though certain packages have registered varying degrees of slippages with reference to the envisaged schedules, the overall project is expected to be completed on schedule.

Rehabilitation of contract labour of FCI Avadi, Tamil Nadu

1770. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what concrete steps Government have taken to rehabilitate those contract labourers who were with the contractors for a long time, in light of its notifications of Ministry of labour dated the 25th February, 1990 to prohibit employment of contract labourers in the Food Storage Department and Godowns of Food Corporation of India, Avadi (Tamil Nadu);

(b) the number of contract labourers who were engaged there at the time of issue of this notification;

(c) whether there is any discrepancy from region to region in absorbing such contract labourers into the fold of regular employment of Food Corporation of India;

(d) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Contract Labourers in the different processing units of Food Corporation of India Godowns at Avadi in Tamil Nadu are on strike with a demand to regularise their services as the employees of Food Corporation of India; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to relieve these unprivileged contract labourers from hardships as to low payment, threat of sudden termination, devoid of the facilities of Provident Fund, Gratuities, Earned leave, Sick leave etc. etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI TARUN GOGOI):

(a) to (c) Food Corporation of India has reported that since a registered Labour Cooperative Society was functioning at Avadi depot and there were no contract labour, the question of rehabilitation of such labour does not arise. They have also reported that a writ petition has been filed by the Tamil Nadu FCI Workers Union, Madras in the Supreme Court and the matter is *sub-judice*.

(d) Food Corporation of India has reported that the members of the Tamil Nadu FCI Workers Union have been on strike since 18-06-1991. Negotiations are being held with the representatives of the union keeping in view additional concessions extended by FCI management to labour cooperative societies.

(e) In the instant case, rates payable to the workers through the Society are settled by the Food Corporation of India on mutual negotiations. The society was working at 270 per cent above schedule of rates under the contract which expired on 20.06.1991. While negotiating the rates, adequacy of wage and other fringe benefits to be provided to the members are kept in view.

Nicotine-based pesticides

1771. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Tobacco Research Institute as Rajahmundry has found tobacco wastes to be effective against pests if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government propose to initiate immediately commercial exploitation of these nicotine-based pesticides resulting in phasing out of dangerous chemical pesticides; and

(c) whether Government also propose to popularise the concept of safe use of pesticides through TV/Radio instead of promoting chemical pesticides as is happening on Krishi Darshan T. V. Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Sir, The Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry has developed a new technology for processing of nicotine sulphate from tobacco waste using ion exchange resins. Nicotine based pesticides thus developed are effective against soft bodied pests like aphids, white flies and leafhoppers.

(b) Nicotine based pesticides have limited scope as they are effective against only soft bodied/pests. Hence, they can not be considered as a replacement for other pesticides.

(c) Besides chemical pesticides, the concept of safe use of pesticides also is proposed to be popularised through TV/Radio.

Workshop on safe and judicious use of pesticides

1772. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the National Workshop held recently in March, 1991 in Delhi on Safe and Judicious use of Pesticides organised by Ministry of Agriculture; if so, the outcome thereof;

(b) whether Government have initiated any process to set up a Standing Committee as recommended by the workshop;

(c) whether Government propose to involve the National Pesticides Action

Committee convened by Voluntary Health Association of India in the process of drafting out action plans for the country; and

(d) whether Government would declare next year as the year for judicious use of pesticides; if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN):

(a) The Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the pesticide Industries Association had organised a Workshop from 29—30th January, 1991 at Delhi. Some of the major recommendations which emerged out of the Workshop relate to giving better emphasis on need based and judicious use of pesticides, Integrated Pest Management, and biological Control of pests and diseases.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government do take into consideration the views and observations of non-Governmental organisations like Voluntary Health Association of India etc. while framing new policies and action plans.

(d) Since the Government are already implementing promotion of safe and judicious use of pesticides through adoption of Integrated Pest Management strategy, there is no need of specifically declaring any particular year for judicious use of pesticides.

Introduction of fast train between Delhi and Farrukhabad

1773. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a fast and convenient train between Delhi and Farrukhabad keeping in view the unduly long time taken by Kalindi Express to reach its destination;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?