

rate of incentive for double-line machine-stitching to rice millers for delivering levy-rice in gunny bags is 60 paise per bag. The current ceiling rate of incentive for double-line machine-stitching of wheat bags is 70 paise per bag. Services of mandi labour contractors/kaccha arthias have also been permitted to be utilised subject to the prescribed ceiling.

#### Organic farming

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

(a) whether it is fact that there is a strong movement in USA and now in India towards organic farming without dangerous agro-chemicals as appeared in the Independent (Bombay) dated the 2nd November, 1990;

(b) whether Government have been receiving representations from organisations such as Voluntary Health Association of India on the subject and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether a deputation of the National Pesticides Action Committee had called on the Dy. Prime Minister and submitted a representation for framing of National Pesticide Policy and if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHAND-BHAI SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government are promoting Integrated Pest Management for pest control and supporting only need based use of chemical pesticides in a safe and judicious manner.

(b) Yes, Sir. Voluntary Health Association of India has published a Status Report on Pesticides Residues *vis-a-vis* consumer protection on behalf of sub working group of Programme Advisory Committee of Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. The main recommendations made in the status re-

port relates to: the need to bring awareness of hazards of pesticides; regular monitoring of residue and fixing up of tolerance limit- publicity of harmful effects of various pesticides; adoption of FAR code for safety; adoption of PIC before exporting of pesticides; review of the use of pesticides banned/restricted/ withdrawn in other countries, in India; to encourage R&D studies for development of resistance in vectors alongwith 11 effects on workers in pesticides industry; to make notification of pesticide poisoning obligatory; need to safeguard public health; to review the operation of Insecticides Act and prevention of Food Adulteration Act; etc. The association has also recommended the need to keep liason with WHO, FAO and UNEP etc. which have been playing a positive role in protecting consumer interest.

(c) Yes, Sir. Their representation is under consideration of the Government.

#### Adoption of organic farming

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

(a) whether widespread pesticide poisoning as also dangers of Nitrates and Nitrites from chemical fertilizer and their high costs are resulting in adoption of organic farming as brought out by Neelam Mathews in the Financial Express of the 2nd November, 1990;

(b) whether Government propose to support expeditiously safer and cheaper alternatives to chemical pesticides and fertilizers and move towards sustainable farming;

(c) whether Government have brought out complete information on slant pesticides available as also biological agents successfully developed R&D units in the country; and

(d) whether products at (c) above are readily available and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHAND-BHAI SHAH):

(a) and (b) Considering the dangers of health hazards and poisoning due to improper usage of pesticides and other accidental incidence, the Government are emphasising on safe and judicious use of chemical pesticides. The Government are also encouraging the adoption of biological control for pest control in agriculture. Similarly, the Government is also supporting the use of bio-fertilizers and organic manures for supplementing the use of chemical fertilizers.

The Government are proposing to undertake an expanded programme of Integrated Pest Management including biological control during the VI<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan and is placing high emphasis on this programme.

(c) Based on the research investigations conducted, some of the important publications like,

(i) Problems and prospects of Botanical Pesticides in Integrated Pest Management; and

(ii) Biological control on identified crop pests have been published.

(d) At present, bio-control agents are being introduced and distributed by 11 Central Biological Control Stations set up by the Government of India in different parts of the country. Some smaller units have also been set up by a few State Governments. One private company is also selling these agents on commercial scale. However, the Government are proposing to extend these facilities in the Government sector and are also encouraging public and private sector companies to undertake their production and sale.

#### **Impact of Diesel shortage on Rabi-showing and transportation of farm Produce**

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

(a) whether recent diesel shortage hit rabi showing and also transport

of farm produce as appeared in the 'Times of India', dated the 28th November, 1990; and

(b) what corrective steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHAND-BHAI SHAH): (a) and (b) Certain restrictions were imposed on supply of High Speed Diesel (HSD) through retail outlets throughout the country. An 8 per cent cut was applied on supplies of HSD to Retail Outlets w.e.f. 8th October, 1990 which was increased to 10 per cent from 1st November<sup>1990</sup>. Since the restrictions on release of HSD to retail outlets coincided with the Kharif Harvesting season and rabi sowing season, there has been marginal adverse effect on farm operations in some of the States. Instructions were issued to State Governments and Oil Companies to give priority to agricultural operations in distribution of diesel at the retail level. In fact priority was given for diesel to farmers in most States. The 10 per cent cut on supplies of HSD to retail outlets was withdrawn w.e.f. November 26, 1990 which has provided substantial relief to the transport and agricultural sectors throughout the country.

#### **Demand of fertilizers**

160. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: "Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fertilizer scenario in the country during 1991 is likely to be discouraging the foreign exchange earning; and

(b) if so, what are the alternate steps Government are taking to cope up with the demand of fertilisers in the agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE CSHRT