

**Expected import of fertilizers**

154. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state what is the expected import of fertilizers of different categories during the years 1990-91 and 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH): The following quantities of different fertilizers are likely to be imported during the financial year 1990-91:

(In lakh tonnes)

|     |   |       |
|-----|---|-------|
| DAP | — | 22.00 |
| MOP | — | 19.65 |
| SOP | — | 0.59  |
| NPK | — | 1.54  |

It is not possible to indicate the expected imports during 1991-92 as the likely demand of fertilizers and the indigenous availability etc. have not been estimated.

**Covering of more areas by Railway lines**

155. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for covering more areas by Railway lines; if so, the details thereof;

(b) by when Deoli in the District Tonk of Rajasthan would be connected by the Railways; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to include Tehsil Jahajpur in District Bhilwara to be connected to the Rail, ways by the next plan?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. The expansion of railway network to meet the traffic requirements is an on-going process and new lines are taken up every year depending on the availability of resources.

The details of new railway lines under construction and those being

taken up have been given in the Works Machinery & Rolling Stock Programme of the Railways, Part II under each Railway. These documents have been furnished to the Members of Parliament along with other Budget documents.

(b) At present, there is no proposal for connecting Deoli in the District Tonk to the railway network.

(c) A survey has been completed for linking Bundi with Deogarh via Jahajpur in 1987. This project has not been found to be remunerative and hence not taken up.

**Machine stitching of food bags**

156. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) by when all the food would be supplied in machine stitched bags to avoid shortage and adulteration; and

(b) the details of action proposed to be taken for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SARWAR HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Although the machine-stitching of bags containing foodgrains procured at mandies/purchase centres, figures high on the priority of the Government for reducing storage and transit losses and adulteration, in view of vast magnitude of price support operations involving about 8000 purchase centres run by Food Corporation of India and State procuring agencies for procurement of wheat and 18768 rice mills (as on 1-1-1986) from whom the levy-rice is collected, it has not been practicable to fix any definite deadline to achieve 100 per cent machine-stitching of foodgrains bags. Due to legal and other practical difficulties, it is not possible to make machine-stitching of levy-rice bags compulsory and, therefore, machine-stitching of levy rice bags is voluntary. However, attempts are being made to extend machine-stitch-in<sup>^</sup> and incentives are being given to popularise this. The current ceiling

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