

(b) whether some other stations are to be modernised and expanded during the current year, if so, the amount allocated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) (a)
25 Railway Stations at a cost of Rs. 180.69 lakh.

(b) During the current year work of modernisation expansion of 20 Station buildings has been undertaken. An outlay of Rs. 85.78 lakh is provided for this work in 1990-91.

Food poisoning deaths in Basti (UP)

129. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the recent food poisoning deaths in Basti was due to a pesticide viz. Gammaxene (BHC), and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to prevent such incidents and to compensate the dependents of the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHAND-BHAI SHAH) (a) As per the report received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh their preliminary investigation has shown that the deaths in Basti had occurred due to accidental mixing of Benzene Hexa Chloride (BHC) with the wheat-floor, used for making 'Purris'.

(b) The Government is aware of the fact that the pesticides are toxic in nature and can cause death and other associated hazards due to pesticide poisoning if not handled properly. It is, therefore, the policy and the endeavour of the Government, to register only those pesticides whose efficacy and safety are proved. Being toxic in nature pesticides have to be used judiciously in accordance with the prescribed detailed instructions

and after observing well laid down safety precautions. In this strategy training of the State Government functionaries and farmers in the safe and proper handling of the pesticides has been given due emphasis. To regulate the import, manufacture and use of insecticides an Act, known as Insecticides Act, was promulgated in 1968. Under the Insecticides Rule, 1971, framed under the said Act, detailed guidelines have been laid down regarding the information/instructions to be printed on labels and leaflets accompanying the containers of pesticides. These include precautions for its use, safety measures to be taken, symptoms of poisoning, first-aid measures, treatment etc. in three languages i.e. English, Hindi and one of the regional languages. Since, deaths have occurred either due to improper usage by the users, accidental exposure in usage, accidental contamination of pesticides with food or water or deliberate suicide by the person, these are not due to any lacunae in the regulations. However, Government are re-emphasising education training of farmers in the safe and proper handling of the pesticides. There is no proposal at present to compensate the dependents of the victims of such incidents.

List of plants possessing pesticidal properties

130. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether a list of the indigenous plants claimed to possess pesticidal properties has been compiled indicating the source of supply and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, whether a report would be compiled at the earliest?

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 compilation was brought out on the occasion of the National Symposium on

"Problems and Prospects of Botanical Pesticides in Integrated Pest Management" held at Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajamundry on 21st and 22nd January, 1990

(b) Does not arise.

List of Biological agents

131 SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether a list of various Biological agents developed in the country indicating the pest against which it is successful and the crops it protects has been compiled, and

(b) if not, whether the same would be compiled at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHAND-BHAI SHAH) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Does not arise

Salmonella epidemic affecting poultry in Haryana

132. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent news reports about the salmonella epidemic which has affected poultry in Haryana and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has undertaken any studies to ascertain the prevalence of this disease and if so, what are the findings thereof and the follow-up action taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHAND-BHAI SHAH): (a) Yes Sir. It has been reported that the poultry farms in Gurgaon were showing an alarming incidence of Salmonella infection

and scores of chicken were dying everyday. It was based on the investigations carried out by Haryana Agricultural University's diagnostic centre at Gurgaon.

(b) Experts from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar and National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi, carried out investigations in and around Gurgaon. A National Seminar on this issue was held at New Delhi on 5th October, 1990 under the aegis of Delhi Veterinary Association wherein leading scientists working on this problem participated. It was concluded that looking into the incidence of the disease, research development efforts for its control and ultimate eradication should be strengthened.

In accordance with the recommendation, action for continuous surveillance and monitoring of Salmonella infection in various poultry farms and hatcheries all over the country has been taken

Progress made in the construction of Talcher-Sambalpur railway line

133. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made in the construction of Talcher-Sambalpur line in Orissa;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to take up the construction work simultaneously from Sambalpur side;

(c) if so, the steps taken thereon; and

(d) the date by which that line is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The progress has been made as under:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| (i) Physical progress | : 27.15% |
| (upto November, 1990) | |
| (ii) Financial progress | : 19.2% |
| (upto November, 1990) | |

(b) and (c) The work is in progress simultaneously from both sides.