

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FAR code for safety; adoption of PIC before exporting of pesticides; review of the use of pesticides banned/restricted/ withdrawn in other countries, in India; to encourage R&D studies for development of resistance in vectors alongwith effects on workers in pesticides industry; to make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