

(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 dependants 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