

due to nefarious activities of traders and mill owners;

(c) whether Government have conducted any raids at the Godowns and premises of traders and mill owners in the capital; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) and (b) While inaugurating the 11th Rabi Oilseeds Crop seminar jointly organised by the

Central Organisation of Oil Industry and Trade and U. P. Oil Millers' Association at Agra, the Union Minister for Food and Civil Supplies warned the hoarders and speculators against creation of artificial prices rise in Vanaspati and edible oils.

There has been rise in prices of vanaspati and other oils in recent months.

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(c) and (d) Government has conducted raids at the 'godowns and premises of traders and mill owners in the capital during January, 90 to March, 90. The details are as under: —

Month	January 90	February 90	March 90
No. of raids	87	27	9
No. of persons arrested	2		Nil
No. of persons convicted		1	2
Value of goods confiscated.	0.29 lakhs		

Increase in Rates of Agricultural Wages

262. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study undertaken by the PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry has revealed that though there has been wide variation in wages in agriculture, the rate of increase has been significantly high in all the States;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any steps to keep a control on the rate of increase in agricultural wages throughout the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Linking of Bulandshar with Major Headquarters by Train

383. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bulandshar district Headquarters of Uttar Pradesh is neither linked to Delhi nor to Lucknow by main Railway line nor any train run to the two capitals through it;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to link this city with Delhi/Lucknow and other major headquarters?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Bulandshar is connected to Delhi and Lucknow by main line via Khurja and Hapur res-

pectively, whereat suitable train connections are available for these places.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

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Opening of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in every district

264. Dr. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE, be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to open Krishi Vigyan Kendras in all the districts in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the target date to complete this scheme?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) So far, 105 K. V. Ks have been established in 103 districts in the country. No target date has been fixed for establishing one K. V. K. per district as presently due to dearth of financial resources no more KVKs are being opened,

Redressal of Consumers complaints

261. SHRI ATAL BIHARI

VAJPAYEE: SHRI

VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to protect the interests of consumers at National, State and District levels;

(b) the number of districts where arrangements have been made to redress the consumers complaints, State-wise; and

(c) what is the outcome of the steps taken to educate the consumers in small towns, rural areas and remote hill areas to enable them to protect themselves from unfair trade practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) To protect the interests of the consumers, the Government has brought into force the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 which envisages a three tier quasi judicial redressal machinery at national, state and district level. In addition, certain legislations such as Essential Commodities Act, 1955, Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 etc. have been amended to empower consumers to file complaints in the Court. Hitherto, such powers were vested in the Government officials only.

(b) As per information available with Government, the district level redressal agencies *i. e.* District Forums have started-functioning in 16 States/UTS, namely, Andhra Pradesh (23 District Forums), Bihar (District Forum), Gujarat (3 District Forums), Goa (1 District Forum), Haryana (2 District Forums), Himachal Pradesh (1 District Forum), Maharashtra (1 District Forum), Orissa (13 District Forums), Rajasthan (6 District Forums), Uttar Pradesh. (12 District Forums), West Bengal (3 District Forums), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (2 District Forums), Chandigarh (1 District Forum), Delhi (1 District Forum), Pondicherry (1 District Forum) and Karnataka (4 District Forums). In addition 11 States/UTs have notified the redressal machinery and approval of the Central Government have been conveyed to the remaining 4 States.

(c) As a result of various measures taken by the Government and the Voluntary Organisation an alert consumer is slowly emerging on the scene who is aware of his rights as a consumer.

Sharing of cost of operating calculations Adjudication and enforcement machineries

266. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state: