

(a) whether it is a fact that production of rice and other agricultural products in Assam has been affected by heavy floods and the farmers are facing immense loss due to such perennial problem every year;

(b) if so, the details of action plan to provide protection to the farmers and to increase the agricultural production;

(c) whether various mission agencies working under the Ministry have forwarded any views or plan of action in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) Flood occurs almost every year in the State of Assam and affects the production of kharif crops, mainly winter paddy. According to the State Government, due to the floods of 2007-08 and 2008-09, about 5.82 lakh hectares and 3.15 lakh hectares of area, respectively, were affected. The State Government has informed loss of 5 human lives and damage to about 6348 hectares of cropped area during South-West Monsoon 2009.

2. The State Government has further informed that they have been taking up contingency measures under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and State plan schemes.

3. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including floods to mitigate its impact through funds available in CRF. However, in case additional assistance is required for relief operations, Government of India considers it on the submission of a detailed Memorandum by the State Government.

4. Moreover, the Ministry of Agriculture is constantly monitoring the kharif sowing operations in various States including Assam, in consultation with the State Government and other concerned agencies, and assistance is available to Assam through various Centrally Sponsored Schemes under implementation in the State.

Adulteration of edible oil with animal fat

*492. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the media reports regarding adulteration of edible vegetable oil with animal fat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps Government has taken or propose to take in such cases;

(d) whether responsibility of local authority has been fixed in such cases of adulteration; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) There have been some media reports regarding adulteration of food items.

The State/UT Governments which are responsible for implementation of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955, have been requested from time to time to keep strict vigil on adulteration of food.

They have been further advised to draw food samples, test them and take strict action against the offenders whose samples do not conform to the standards laid down in the PFA Act and Rules.

Gas cracker project in Assam

*493. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for the commissioning of gas cracker project 'Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited' (BCPL) in Assam showing the details of phase-wise implementation;

(b) the domestic as well as international market link envisaged for the products and for the downstream industries;

(c) the steps taken for awareness and training of entrepreneurs in phases for direct and indirect employment avenues; and

(d) the details of recruitment drive made and planned for future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The target for project commissioning is April 2012. The phase wise achievements of the project implementation in major areas is as given below:

An Agreement for constituting Joint Venture Company was executed on 18.10.2006 and M/s. Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited (BCPL) was incorporated on 8th January 2007. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India laid the foundation stone for the Project at Lepatkata in Dibrugarh, Assam on 9th April 2007. Feedstock supply agreements for Naptha with Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) and Oil India Limited (OIL), and Gas with Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) were signed in 2007. M/s Engineers India Limited (EIL) were appointed as the Project Management Consultant in 2007. 1157 Acres of land has been acquired for the project, including township etc. Civil construction activities for various components of the Project, including Plant and Non-Plant buildings have been started. Technology licensors for all the major units have been selected and license agreements signed during 2008 and 2009. Pipeline survey work has been completed. Firm commitments of Procurement and Contract in terms of Work Orders/Purchase Orders/Fees stand at Rs. 1686 crores till date.