

(e) Measures taken to avoid any loss or damage to the foodgrains include proper storage, regular inspection of stocks by technical personnel, periodical prophylactic treatment and fumigation, proper godown hygiene and aeration, and turnover of stocks according to priorities.

Fall in Natural Population Growth

1283. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that population growth rate in the country has declined since the implementation of family planning programme; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) and (b) Population growth rate has steadied during the 1971—81 decade at almost the same level as for the 1961—71 decade despite a steep fall in the death rate. Actual decline in growth rate is usually a long term process.

Kerosene supply to Kerala Fishermen's Welfare Corporation

1284. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of kerosene supplied to Kerala Fishermen's

Welfare Corporation Ltd. during the last one year-month-wise for the operation of mechanised fishing crafts;

(b) what is the monthly requirement of kerosene by this Corporation; and

(c) what arrangements have been made by Government to supply the required quantity of kerosene for this Corporation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Prosecutions for violations of Fruit Products Orders, 1955

1285. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item "Consumers face malpractices adulteration" appearing in the Patriot of 24th March, 1984;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for non-prosecution of soft drinks manufacturers who are violating provisions of clause 11(3) FPO-1955 and misleading the consumers by not putting the statutory notice on their advertisements; and

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to paper entitled "Consumer Rights—a case study of Soft Drinks Industry" presented at a seminar "Consumer Right and Law" at the Faculty of Law, Delhi University, on the 23rd March, 1984, if so, what is Government's reaction to (i) unfair competition to juice-based drinks from soft drink manufacturers; (ii) exorbitant profit margins of SAW's; (iii) laxity in implementation of FPO-1955?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Show-cause notices were served on the licensees under the Fruit Products Order, 1955 for not complying with the requirements of clause 11(3) of the Order. Replies received thereto are under consideration.

(c) Government has received a paper with the same title from a consumers' organisation. The Fruit Products Order, 1955—the existing regulatory instrument—does not envisage any control on competition between various products which come under its purview, except in relation to advertisement/publicity, or on product prices/profit margins. As for implementation of the Order, the position is as indicated in reply to part (b) of the Question.

Ex-factory price of soft drinks

1286. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report "Consumer face malpractices, adulteration" appearing in the Patriot of 24th March, 1984;

(b) if so, what is the quantity manufactured, exported as also sale price of the soft drinks of each category and brand of soft drinks produced by licence holders Nos. FPO 5239, 5238, 2905 and 2380 during the last three years; and

(c) the rate of taxes and excise duties included in the stated factory sale prices of these licences as well as sale prices of licence holders No. 31 and 1938?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached. (See below)

(c) Form 'C' in which the licensees are required to submit the return under the Fruit Products Order, 1955 does not require them to furnish the information on rates of taxes and duties. This information is therefore not available with the Ministry.