

Death of cattle in Delhi due to substandard vaccine

863 SHRI B SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 5000 milk giving cows and buffaloes died in Delhi due to the use of substandard vaccine supplied by the Indian Veterinary Research Institute recently;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry into the matter; and

(c) if so, the result thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) No, Sir, against the reported deaths of 5000 cows and buffaloes, Delhi Administration has confirmed the death of 958 animals. The deaths have occurred as a result of infection and not due to sub-standard vaccine.

(b) and (c) The affected areas were visited by Senior Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture who investigated the outbreak. Necessary instructions for the control of the outbreak were given.

A Task Force comprising the Joint Commissioner (Livestock Health); Division of Virology of Indian Veterinary Research Institute and Deputy Director (Animal Husbandry), Delhi Administration was constituted to suggest short term and long term measures to control the disease outbreak. These measures were implemented by the Delhi Administration.

Compulsory modernisation of rice Mills

864. SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to compulsorily modernise the rice mills in the country;

(b) whether guidelines have been issued to various State Governments and the Union Territories to ensure compulsory modernisations of rice mills functioning under their jurisdiction;

(c) the main objectives of modernising rice mills; and

(d) what are the details of the steps taken so far by the various State Governments in this matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MISS KAMLA KUMARI): (a) The Rice Milling Industry (Regulation and Licensing) Rules, 1959 were amended in 1970 to provide for modernisation of rice mills belonging to the categories of battery of hullers, huller-cum-shellers and shellers. The Rules were again amended in 1976 to bring the single huller rice mills also within the purview of the scheme of modernisation.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main objectives of modernisation of rice mills are:

(i) Better out-turn and improvement in quality of rice.

(ii) Less percentage of broken.

(iii) Production of oil-rich bran and better quality husk.

(d) Apart from issuing instructions to the licensing authorities for adhering to time-limits, State Governments give publicity to create necessary awareness about the advantages of modernisation of rice mills. Some Extension centres have also been