

States' response to the policy of total prohibition

603. SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABI-BULLAH:

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISO-DIA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state the names of the States which have so far responded to the Central Government's policy for bringing about total prohibition in the country during a period of four years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (SHRI DHANNA SINGH GULSHAN): The policy of introducing prohibition within a period of four years has been generally accepted by the State Governments. The following States/Union Territories have initiated the measures taken by them so far in implementation of the policy:

Assam	Bihar
Haryana	Himachal Pradesh
Kerala	Manipur
Negaland	Orissa
Punjab	Rajasthan
Uttar Pradesh	West Bengal

Union Territories

Chandigarh and Delhi.

Gujarat and Tamil Nadu are already dry States.

Modernisation of Sugar Mills in Bihar

604. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sugar mills in Bihar are not modernised as compared to that in other States;

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

(c) what steps Government propose to take in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A large number of sugar mills in Bihar were installed more than 40 years back. These factories are having very old machinery and small capacity.

(c) The Government have introduced a scheme to be administered by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (as a lead institution of Central Financing Agencies) for giving soft loans, to the sugar factories for modernisation of their plant and machinery as well as expansion to a capacity of 1500 tonnes cane crushing per day.

Insecticides Act, 1968

605. SHRI GOVINDRAO RAM-CHANDRA MAHAISEKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints regarding adulteration of insecticides and pesticides; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to amend the Insecticides Act, 1968, so as to make it more effective for dealing with cases of such adulteration?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) The State Governments, which are responsible for administering the Insecticides Act, 1968, have been receiving complaints regarding adulteration of pesticides from time to time. Prosecutions have also been launched in some cases.

(b) This matter is under examination.