

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that several families were rendered homeless and were not given any alternative accommodation on purely technical grounds, and the humanitarian aspect was not considered with the result that these families are still subsisting without any suitable accommodation, and if so, whether the Government proposes to scrutinise such cases on humanitarian grounds and try to give some relief by giving them alternative accommodation.

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त : इसके मुतालिक कोई बाजेह इस्तीला हमारे पास नहीं है लेकिन इस्तीला लेने की कोशिश करेंगे और इस किसम के केसेज नोटिस में आयेंगे तो मदद करने की कोशिश की जायेगी।

"SMUT" DISEASES IN WHEAT CROPS

*66. SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN : t DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRABARTI SHRI GAEESH LAL MALI : SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY : SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fungicides recommended for the control of loose "Smut" disease to wheat crops have been cleared under the Insecticides Act for toxicity and residual limit problems under the Indian agro climatic conditions; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to stop the manufacture /supply of unapproved fungicides sold in the market for eradication of the disease and thus prevent the exploitation of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir, the only one fungicide carboxin (brand made Vitavax) has been approved for registration as a seed dressing agent for the control of loose smut diseases of wheat and barley.

tThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Nabin Chandra Buragohain.

(b) The manufacture and sale of any insecticide cannot take place without the manufacturing and selling licences issued under the Insecticides Act, 1968 by the States. The States have also appointed/ notified the three important functionaries, namely, Licencing Officers, Insecticide Inspectors and Insecticide Analysts to prevent the exploitation of farmers.

SHRI V. B. RAJU : Sir, is he answering on behalf of the Agriculture Minister or is he the Minister of Agriculture ? The House has not been informed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We have been informed about this. He is answering on behalf of the Agriculture Minister.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN : Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that Vitavax, the fungicide, is approved by his Ministry for seed dressing by Government institutions. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to how many items of this type are in the market which have been approved by the Government for use in seed dressing and what they are.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : Sir, there are quite a few of these but the Ministry has discarded all of them and insisted that for the smut diseases of wheat and barley only carboxin should be used.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN : If that is the case, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he will pass on directions to all the authorities concerned under him so that they may use only this fungicide and not any other?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : Necessary instructions have already been issued and they are being insisted upon.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that his Ministry has received representations from the National Seeds Corporation, from the Tarai Seeds Corporation and from the various State Governments to the effect that on account of the heavy customs duties on this particular fungicide, namely, Vitavax, which is exclusively used for seed dressing and for the control of smut diseases in the wheat crops, enough quantity of seed required in the country is not likely to be available because of

the heavy customs duties. Secondly, on account of the use of this fungicide the price of seeds goes up to such an extent that the farmers will not be able to pay for them. The result is that there is a loss in production to the extent of 5 to 10 per cent. Considering the fact that suitable substitutes in place of this particular type of fungicide are not available. I would like to know what steps the Government proposes to take to waive the customs duty on this fungicide or bring down the customs duty on a par with the customs duty for other fungicides so that there is no disparity in prices of fungicides that are being used and when this item is being declared as an essential item by the Ministry.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : If the position is as the hon. Member has slated, I would certainly look into it and bring down the prices by reducing the customs duty.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR : Have you received any representations in this regard?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : I am afraid, I am not aware of any representations on this score.

FUNCTIONING OF CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE COUNTRY

*67. SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI

CHUNDAWAT : SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA : SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the observations made recently by some well-known exponents of classical dancing in the country at a Press Conference held in New Delhi voicing their dissatisfaction over the functioning of the cultural organisations in the country; and

(b) The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sawaisingh Sisodia.

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

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STATEMENT

The question of improving the functioning of the three Akademies has been engaging the attention of the Government from time to time. Apart from the Bhabha and Khosla Review Committees which reported on the working of the Akademies in 1964 and 1970 respectively, the Department of Culture itself is currently engaged in making a detailed evaluation of the working and programmes of these institutions.

In so far as the particular complaints made by a group of dancers recently are concerned, a senior officer of the Department of Culture has already discussed these with the concerned artistes. It transpired that some of the complaints are derived basically from ignorance or lack of complete information. With regard to the others, the artistes were assured that these were already receiving the attention of the Government. Various points made in a memorandum submitted by these artistes are being examined in consultation with the organizations concerned.

Further, the artistes have been invited to offer concrete suggestions for improving the working of these institutions. Their suggestions are awaited.

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA: : Sir, I would like to know whether there are any definite rules for giving grants to cultural organisations and, if so, will the hon. Minister lay those rules on the Table of the House? May I know what is the number of institutions receiving annual grants? Looking at the dissatisfaction and discontentment in the selection of cultural troupes for cultural exchange programmes in other countries and the dissatisfaction at the procedure for giving grants to cultural organisations, will the Minister consider