

Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh to assess the situation arising out of drought conditions in those state;

(b) if so, what are the recommendations of these teams in respect of each State; and

(c) what decision the Central Government have taken on these recommendations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central teams which visited the States have submitted assessments of the situation created by drought. These are still under consideration in consultation with the State Governments concerned.

Soyabean cultivation in Madhya Pradesh

674. SHRI CHAKRAPANI SHUKLA :
SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA :
SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Madhya Pradesh Government have recently sent a proposal for intensive development of soyabean cultivation in some districts of that State;

(b) if so, when the proposal was received by the Central Government; and

(c) by when the proposal is likely to be accepted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In June, 1974.

(c) It has already been sanctioned.

Wastage of imported Polio Vaccine

675. SHRI B. D. BARMAN : Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that polio vaccine imported from the Soviet Union worth several lakhs of rupees is being wasted owing to poor storage conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have conducted any investigation into this matter; and

(d) if so, the details of the findings and action being taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE) : (a) to (d) A survey was conducted by the Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation in conjunction with the National Institute of Communicable Diseases on the quality of oral polio vaccine being administered in the country. 95 samples of vaccine were taken on all India basis, from Delhi, Jaipur, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Madras, Bombay, Calcutta and Bhopal, from hospitals, charitable institutions, dispensaries, distributors, chemists and immunisation centres. Out of the 95 samples, 46 samples had lost their potency to the extent of 20 to 99%. In institutions which maintained proper storage conditions, the potency of the vaccine was found to be satisfactory. Following the survey a note on oral polio vaccine, the manner in which it should be stored, the precautions to be taken in administering and the 'dos' and 'don'ts' about the vaccine were circulated to the State Administrative Medical Officers, the Central Government Health Scheme, Railways, E.S.I.C., Army, etc. Instructions to the concerned officials and to the parents were also circulated. The Drugs Controller (India) also addressed the State Drugs Controller in the matter. The Director General of Health Services convened a meeting of the medical officers concerned and apprised them of the need and procedures relating to the manner of obtaining supplies, conditions of storage, and precautions to be taken. A check on the quality of imported vaccine is also being exercised by the Assistant Drug Controller (India). Bombay and samples so far tested have been found satisfactory. Collection of samples and testing them in the National Institute of Communicable Diseases is being continued on a regular basis. The Central Government Health Scheme have also discontinued the practice of storing polio vaccine either in the Stores or in the dispensaries and the vaccine is being collected and administered on the same day itself.

Drug supply in Government Hospitals

676. SHRI B. D. BARMAN : Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported drug crisis in the Government hospitals in the country; and

(b) what measures are being taken to improve the situation for drug supply in these hospitals?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE) : (a) Yes.