

(4) Arrangements for importing about 41 lakh tonnes of foodgrains were made on commercial basis. In addition, a loan of 20 lakh tonnes of wheat was arranged from the U.S.S.R. Government

(5) Curb on consumption of foodgrains by enforcement of the Guest Control Orders and restrictions on the number of courses to be served in hotels and other eating houses.

(6) Restriction on inter-zonal movement of coarse grains have been relaxed since January, 1974 so as to allow the purchase and movement of coarse grains outside the States by the sponsored agents of the State Governments.

Visits of Civil Supplies Officials to Check the Stocks of Vanaspati

585. SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that officials of Civil Supplies Department of Delhi Administration are visiting the houses of consumers to verify the stock of vanaspati purchased by them on controlled rates from authorised shops thereby causing harassment to people on account of such visits at odd hours; and

(b) whether such officials are also required to visit the godowns of wholesalers and retailers of vanaspati to verify the stocks held and sold by them; if so, the number of cases detected during the last one year for violating the control orders and the punishment given to such offenders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) Officials of the Delhi Administration are required at times to check on the genuineness of sales of vanaspati reported by retail dealers by verifying the purchases made by the consumers concerned. This entails visits to their houses but such visits are, as a rule, made during the day or, where necessary, in

the evening; they are never made at odd hours.

(b) Yes, Sir; 169 cases of violation of the Delhi Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil Dealers Licensing Order, 1966 were detected during 1973. Of these, 13 cases were of a serious nature and the dealers' licences in 8 of them were cancelled and complaints in regard to 5 lodged with the police.

Impact of fuel crisis on agricultural production

586. SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fuel crisis is likely to slow down the pace of green revolution and as a result thereof agricultural production is seriously affected;

(b) whether any assessment has been made about the likely impact of the petroleum scarcity on the country's agricultural production during the current year, if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps contemplated to minimise the adverse impact of the fuel crisis on agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) to (c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

(a) and (b) High speed diesel oil is used for tractors, harvesting combines and power-tillers. High-speed and low speed diesel oils are also used for operating diesel pumps particularly in those areas where the power line is not available or where the supply of electric power to the farmer is not ensured. There has been a substantial increase in the demand of high speed diesel oil in the country during the current busy season. Except for transport difficulties, the supply of high speed and low speed diesel oil for agricultural machinery and lift irrigation has not been adversely affected. Actual sales of high speed diesel oil in the country during the last 4 months as compared with sales in the corresponding