

Death in Agartala Due to Food Poisoning

1524. SHRI DEB AN AND AMAT:

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: SHRI

M. K. MOHTA: SHRI

LOKANATH MISRA: SHRI K.

C. PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to a report published in the 'Statesman' dated the 20th September, 1973 to the effect that three persons died in Agartala after the consumption of poisonous wheat;

(b) whether Government have received any report in this regard from the State Government: and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) to (c) The

report in the 'Statesman' dated the 20th September, 1973 referred to incidents that have taken place in Udaipur town and Pharmura area of Khawai sub-division. Regarding the incident in Udaipur, the State Government have stated that on 18-9-1973 members of a family suffered from food poisoning due to taking of scrapping which some family members had collected from the floor of a flour mill in Udaipur. They ate chapatis made of that flour. They took rice in the morning with dry fish. All of them were admitted to Udaipur hospital. Out of 15 cases of food poisoning, 4 died on the 18th September and the others recovered after treatment. Samples of scrapping taken from the mill and remnants of food collected from stomachs of the deceased were sent to Laboratory for examination. Laboratory reports are awaited by the State Govt.

Regarding the incident in Pharmura Khawai, the State Government have stated that six persons of a family were attacked with food poisoning on 14-9-73 and three of them had died on the same day. The clinical signs and symptoms of the patients were more or less similar to

neutral type of poisoning which are commonly insecticide poisoning. The victims took rice and vegetables but no atta. Food samples are under examination of the Public Health Laboratory and the report is awaited by the State Government.

Production on Vanaspati Ghee

1525. SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY: SHRI

SARDAR AMJAD ALI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the licensed capacity of industries producing vanaspati in each State in the country;

(b) the actual production of vanaspati in each State;

(c) the particular reasons for shortfall in the production of vanaspati;

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure full production of vanaspati: and

(e) by when the production of vanaspati is likely to reach the licensed capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

(c) The fall in the production of vanaspati from the monthly average of about 50,000 tonnes during 1972 to 37,968 tonnes during 1973 (upto November) was mainly due to the non-availability of indigenous raw oils, resulting from the steep fall in the production of groundnut during 1972-73, coupled with shortage of edible oils even in world markets.

(d) Steps taken by Government to ensure maximum production include (i) encouraging usage of substitute indigenous oils like cottonseed, mustard and rice-bran (if stepping up of imports even at high cost in foreign exchange and (iii) discouraging diversion of capacity to production of non-essential items.

(e) With the onset of the new groundnut season in November 1973 and consequent improved availability of raw oils,