

particularly to senior citizens with meager pension; and

(c) why the contract between these chemists and Government cannot be made binding on both parties by involving Law Ministry in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) The Authorised Local Chemists of CGHS, Delhi, had gone on strike during the period 17.2.2005 to 28.2.2005.

The reason for the strike cited by the authorized local chemists is late payment of their bills by the CGHS Directorate. Sometimes, due to paucity of funds near the end of financial year, additional funds are sought for clearing the bills of the CGHS Authorised local chemists. The authorized CGHS chemists have also recently raised the issue of introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) by the Government of NCT of Delhi w.e.f. 1.4.2005.

The strikes were resolved as adequate funds have been allocated for clearing the pending bills of the Authorised local Chemists of CGHS.

The bid/tender document for appointment of Authorised Local Chemists under CGHS includes an undertaking from the Authorised Chemist would *inter-alia* specifies that in the case of failure on the part of the CGHS Authorised Chemist to supply medicines to the beneficiaries, the contract is liable to be cancelled at the Chemist's risk and cost; and that any extra cost involved in arranging supply of medicines to the beneficiaries from an alternative source would be recovered from the CGHS Authorised Chemist.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Increasing M.S.P. Sphere

†3866. **SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to include Gwar, Coriander, Cumin seeds, Methi (Medicago) and Isabgol under the support price scheme; and

(b) if so, by when it will be announced?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government, at present, has no proposal to include Gwar, Coriander, Cumin seeds, Methi (Medicago) and Isabogi under the Minimum Support Price Scheme.

Availability of fish in Oceans

3867. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the availability of fish diminished in the Arabian and Indian Oceans after the Tsumani incident;

(b) if so, whether the Government conducted any study to ascertain the charges to the living organisms caused due to the underwater seismic disturbances; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Solving agriculture problems

†3868. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have paid attention towards the suggestions made by Nobel laureate Dr. Amartya Sen for solving the present agricultural problems for the development of agriculture;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that he has suggested for solving the agricultural problems by indicating towards credit, land reform, health, education etc.;

(c) if so, reaction of Government on the suggestions made by him; and

(d) whether any target based plan on the basis of the suggestions has been prepared; if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.