

(ii) Studying the depth characteristics to determine the confinement and natural subsurface drainage paths with a view to determine the volume of storage and possible locations of subsurface cut oil's (dykes).

(iii) Studying the existing natural recharge and water table data to determine the safe depth upto which storage can be built upto result is economical pumping and to avoid water logging as well as evaporation losses.

Systematic ground water investigations have been only recently taken up in the country and are being done by the Central Ground-water Board of the Ministry of Agriculture. Due attention will be paid in the course of investigations for groundwater to study and locate promising areas suitable for such groundwater storage.

IMPORT OF MENTHOL OIL

835. SHRI O. P. TYAGI :
SHRI PREM MANOHAR: SHRI
PITAMBER DAS: SHRI N. K.
SHEJWALKAR : DR. BHAI
MAHAVIR : SHRI J. P. YADAV:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual requirement and indigenous production of menthol oil:

(b) whether it is a fact that due to bulk imports of menthol oil this year, its price has fallen so much so that Indian farmers are compelled to make distress-sales; which have hit its farming adversely; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto.'

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):
(a) to (c) Presumably, the Hon'ble Members are referring to Peppermint Oil which is one of the raw materials for production of menthol. There are at present four units in the organised sector registered under the Directorate General of Technical Development, of which two are permitted

to import Dementholised Peppermint Oil 'i.e., the oil left over after partial recovery of menthol) and the other two are obtaining their requirement of Peppermint Oil, on contract basis, from indigenous sources, 17 from the farms they have established.

The annual requirement of Peppermint Oil is about 200 tonnes and the indigenous production is estimated at 50 tonnes.

The Menthol Industry is a priority industry and therefore import of raw material for this industry, namely, Dementholised Peppermint Oil is allowed on replenishment basis, and there has been no excess import through these units.

Government have received no complaints about distress sales by our farmers.

DRAINAGE SCHEME IN ANDHRA PRADESH

836. SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA :
Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the funds allotted for drainage scheme in order to improve irrigation facilities in Andhra Pradesh area have been fully utilised:

(b) the total amount that was allotted for the purpose: and

(c) whether the work was executed through contracts or by the ryots ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BAIJ NATH KUREEL): (a) and (b) The scheme for drainage improvement in Krishna and Godavari Deltas is being implemented by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh outside the Plan. The Government of India had sanctioned special loan assistance of Rs. 3 crores during 1969-70 for making an immediate start on the scheme. This amount was fully utilised by the State Government. No financial assistance has been given for this scheme by the Centre subsequently.

(c) The work was executed through contractors.