

(a) whether Government is aware that the Quality Council of India initiated study revealed shocking findings of lethal lead levels in majority of enamel paints available in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has initiated any action to monitor the quality of paints marketed in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Quality Council of India (QCI) has supported a study undertaken by National Referral Center for Lead Poisoning in India (NRCLPI) on the evaluation of lead content in paints manufactured in India. The lead content was found to be much higher than the BIS voluntary standard.

(b) and (c) Government has taken up the matter with the stake holders including paint manufacturers. The Technical Committee of the Bureau of Indian Standards has constituted three Panels to review all the published IS specifications in the light of lead restrictions and lead-free clause.

Shortage of agricultural products due to exports

†2173 SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there would be a shortage of agricultural products and vegetable in domestic market by giving relaxation to their export and consequently their price would rise; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government to ensure their sufficient availability in domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Export of agricultural products depends on several factors including domestic and international demand and supply situation. Whenever, there is scarcity or short supply of any product in the domestic market, government prohibits or restricts exports to ensure availability of such products to consumers at reasonable price.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.