

The Department of Veterinary Services, Bhopal undertook necessary steps for treatment of the affected animals. The scientists recommended such treatments of affected animals by administration of corticosteroids, broad spectrum antibiotics, eye ointments and vitamins and other nutritional care.

Fishes, Phytoplankton and Zooplankton :

The Phytoplanktons in the affected area showed breakage and deformation and change in pigment ratios leading to discolouration (red and yellow) of cells, specially in the top level of the lake water. However zooplanktons in the affected area did not show any such visible effects. The fish in the affected area showed anaemic changes in the haemoglobin concentration.

Whereas in the case of affected surviving animals definite therapeutic treatments were recommended, the team has given major emphasis on short and long term investigations particularly in respect of mutagenic changes in various categories of plants and different type of animals.

[English]

Supply of Edible Oils and Pulses

*80. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for steep rise in the prices of edible oils and pulses in the country ;

(b) whether Government have made any arrangement to maintain adequate supply of edible oils and pulses ;

(c) whether these commodities are also being imported; and

(d) the steps being taken to maintain the supply of these commodities in far flung places and rural areas in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) The prices of edible oils, Arhar and Masoor have generally gone down during the past few months. The increase in the prices of other pulses is mainly due to the supplies not being commensurate with the growing demand.

(b) to (d) Efforts are being made to increase the production of edible oils and pulses. The domestic production of these commodities is supplemented by imports. The import of edible oils is canalised through the State Trading Corporation of India. Pulses are allowed to be imported under the Open General Licence. Imported edible oils are supplied through the Public Distribution System and under the small packs scheme. In a few States pulses are supplied through the Public Distribution System. Pulses are also sold by consumer cooperatives. To State Governments have been advised to open fair price shops in far flung places and rural areas to ensure that designated essential commodities are available in these shops.

[English]

Improving the quality of Films for Children

323. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to make great strides in improving the quality of films for children; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) and (b) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government. However, the Children's Film Society, India which is an autonomous Society and receives grants-in-aid from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for production of Children's films is engaged in the production of quality films for children. The Society has a scheme to involve well-known film producers for production of its films to improve the quality of Children's films.

Perennial Drought in Ahmednagar District of Maharashtra

324. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether keeping in view the fact that