

S.No.	Name of the Species	No. of Animals Died	
REPTILES			
1.	Indian Python	5	1
		1993	1994
2.	Monitor Lizard	—	6
3.	Sand Boa	8	7
4.	Iguana	1	—
5.	Star tortoise/ Tortoise	7	—
6.	Cobra	7	5
7.	Pond Turtle	2	1
8.	Krait	2	—
9.	Russels Viper	1	—
10.	Diadem Snake	1	1
11.	Rat Snake	—	1
12.	King Cobra	1	—

USE of Plastics

1100. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the extensive use of plastics in agriculture sector helped in conservation of irrigation water and increase the area under irrigation;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating any steps to encourage the use of plastics such as drip system, sprinkler, plastic pipes etc., by giving subsidy to the farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the latest instruction if any, issued by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Use of plastics in agriculture in the form of drip irrigation and plastic mulch has helped in conserving irrigation water to the extent of 30-70% at research farms. However, no study has been made in the farmers fields following large scale adoption.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) (i) *Drip Irrigation*: The Government of India is implementing a scheme, "Use of plastics in Agriculture" during the current Five Year Plan. Under this scheme, subsidy support is available to farmers for horticulture crops excluding tea, coffee, rubber but including oil palm. The subsidy support is limited to 50% of the cost or Rs. 15,000 per ha. whichever is less.

(ii) *Sprinkler Irrigation*: To install sprinkler irrigation system, Government is providing subsidy to farmers under its existing programmes of National Pulse Development Programme, Oilseeds Production Programme and Cotton Development. The subsidy support of 50% of the cost of system is provided to small and marginal farmers, 75% of the cost to scheduled Caste/scheduled tribes farmers and 25% of the cost

to other category of farmers subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000 per beneficiary.

Essential Commodities

1101. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:
SHRI RAM NAIK:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have done the exercise of studying the demand and supply position of various items of mass consumption for the year 1995;

(b) if so, the latest estimated shortage, if any, in the case of wheat, rice, suger, pulses and edible oils during 1995;

(c) the steps envisaged to meet the anticipated shortage of supply; and

(d) the steps taken to control the retail prices?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH):

(a) No Sir. The demand of items of mass consumption at a given point of time depends upon a number of factors such as population, production, availability, income distribution, price behaviour, consumer's habits, availability of substitutes and other related factors. As such, it is not possible to assess the exact demand for all items of mass consumption at any given point of time.

(b) to (d) The Government keeps a constant watch on the price and availability of essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, pulses and edible oils, and keeps the option open to import essential commodities as and when considered necessary to bring down the prices at reasonable levels. At present the stock position of rice and wheat in the Central Pool is very comfortable and no shortage to meet the requirements of PDS is anticipated.

As regards sugar, with the estimated carry over stock of 18.33 lakh tonnes of indigenous sugar as on 1.10.94 and the balance of about 8.77 lakh tonnes of sugar earlier imported alongwith the estimated production of 120 lakh tonnes for the season 1994-95 there would be sufficient, availability of sugar to meet the requirement of 1994-95 season. The retail prices of sugar are being closely monitored through the mechanism of judicious monthly freesale releases and various other measures such as placing of import of sugar under Open General Licence, stipulations relating to sale and despatch of freesale sugar by the sugar factories, imposition of stock holding limits on sugar dealers etc.

In the case of pulses, there is a gap of nearly 3 million tonnes between demand and supply of the pulses in the country. The import of over 6 lakh tonnes of pulses during 1993-94 and 3.18 lakh tonnes during April-November, 1994 has helped in augmenting the supply of pulses. The import of pulses has been placed on Open General Licence (OGL).

In the case of edible oils, a gap of nearly 5-6 lakh tonnes still remain between total requirement and net availability from all domestic source.

The import of edible vegetable palmolein has been placed under O.G.L. with effect from 20th April, 1994 at 65% duty. Further, import of edible oils except