

(c) whether any investigation into this ammonia gas leak from a factory tank in Calcutta has been carried out at the Central level;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the instructions issued by the Government in this Company and other such companies to prevent such toxic gas leakage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. As per information made available by the Chief Inspector of Factories, Government of West Bengal, who is the implementing authority for both the Factories Act, 1948, and the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989, gazetted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 mal-operation of an isolation valve led to the release of ammonia gas on the 7th of July, 1995 at 1100 hrs. in the Hindustan Lever Ltd. Subsidiary Plant at Calcutta.

(c) to (e). No, Sir. The Chief Inspector of Factories, Govt. of West Bengal have conducted their preliminary investigation and are investigating the case further.

(f) The State Factory Inspectorate have instructed the Company to take due care while attending to oil separators. As per the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989, such companies are required to notify their site to the State Factory Inspectorate, prepare an On-site Emergency Plan and help the District Administration in the preparation of an Off-Site Emergency Plan. The companies are also required to inform the neighbouring public of possible accidents.

Support Prices of the Oil Palm

1379. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations urging the Government to take steps for fixing the minimum support price of Oil Palm in the absence of which the farmers are not getting remunerative price for their produces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Unnatural Methods of Animal Breeding

1380. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether animal breedings is being done in enclosures under pitiable conditions by adopting unnatural methods; resulting in animals falling prey to various types of diseases;

(b) whether for treatment of animals and to earn profit, antibiotics and other chemical medicines are being used at large scale which makes the meat of such animals harmful for health;

(c) whether there is any definite procedure, law of control for such method of breeding and for medicines being given to animals;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Legal provisions exist under the various Acts like Indian Veterinary Council Act, Indian Drugs and Cosmetics Act, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, etc. to ensure that unnatural methods of breeding are not resorted to and indiscriminate and improper use of medicines and chemicals are avoided.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Legal provisions exist under the various Acts like Indian Veterinary Council Act, Indian Drugs and Cosmetics Act, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, etc. to ensure that unnatural methods of breeding are not resorted to and indiscriminate and improper use of medicines and chemicals are avoided.

River Dolphins

1381. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Asian River Dolphin Committee, the International Working Group On River Dolphin, have suggested that appropriate changes be included in the Indian Fisheries Act to prevent fishermen from catching the river Dolphins; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.