

(b) if so, the year-wise break-up of the details since the starting of the plant; and

(c) the steps being taken to enable it to make profit and popularise the product of this unit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) The year-wise losses of the fruit juice bottling plant since inception are given below :—

Year	(Rs in lakhs)
1982-83	22.83
1983-84	22.25
1984-85	18.81

(c) The Company has been taking necessary steps to (i) streamline product marketing, (ii) monitor product quality, and (iii) remove production constraints. As a result, capacity utilisation of the plant has improved and it is expected to become viable during the current year.

Cost of Inputs Used for Production of Foodgrains and Procurement Cost in Maharashtra

1265. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE : be pleased to state :

(a) interval at which Government undertake a study to find out the cost ratio of inputs that go into the production of foodgrains and the procurement cost of foodgrains;

(b) what have been the findings of such studies made on three earlier occasions;

(c) whether the agriculturists in Maharashtra are feeling restive about the increasing gap between the inputs cost and the procurement cost; and

(d) Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Under a Centrally funded scheme for collecting data on inputs and outputs the State Agricultural Universities have been reporting these data on an annual basis. Estimates based on these data are made available to the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

(b) There have been some increase in input costs over the last three years.

(c) and (d). Some representations have been received from farmer organisations in Maharashtra regarding remunerative prices to farmers. The Government takes into consideration the views of the farmers, the State Governments, the concerned Central Ministries and the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and announces each season minimum support/procurement prices for major agricultural commodities. The Government also organises purchase operations through public agencies.

White-Washing Tender of 'M' Division of CPWD

1266. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in 'M' Division of C.P.W.D. white-washing tender has gone down by 56 per cent this year;

(b) if so, whether it would affect the quality of white washing;

(c) whether there is any proposal to distemper one of the two rooms in Types II and III quarters instead of water washing to give proper look; and

(d) whether the present white-washing material does not contain any ingredient to kill insects, if so, whether any such ingredient is proposed to be mixed with white washing material ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) The rates of white-washing in 'M' Division of CPWD during 1985-86 vary between 8% to 58.5% below schedule rates.

(b) It would not affect the quality as the same shall be ensured by effective supervision by the Junior Engineer and inspection by Asstt. Engineer/Executive Engineer.

(c) There is no such proposals.

(d) Yes, the present white-washing material does not contain any ingredient to kill insects. It is not proposed to add any such ingredient with the white-washing material. However, the lime used for white-washing has some germicidal properties.

Weighing of Boxes With Sweets etc.

1267. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that box is not to be weighed alongwith sweets, namkeens etc. under the Weights and Measures Act but in actual practice the boxes are being weighed because of the ignorance of rule by the general public;

(b) whether there is any proposal to educate the general public on the correct rule position through television network by advertisements and programmes like Rajni especially; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) Yes, Sir. Where boxes containing sweets, namkeens, etc. are weighed along-with the contents, the net quantity delivered to the consumer will be less than the quantity contracted for and paid for, which is an offence under the Weights and Measures

(Enforcement) Acts, enforced by the States.

(b) and (c). The Government has taken various measures to educate the consumers. Apart from giving financial assistance to voluntary consumer organisations for schemes on consumers protection, the Government has constituted a consumer Protection Council to advise the Government on measures for consumers' protection. Brochures on adulteration, weights and measures have been issued for education of the consumers. However, such efforts need a strong consumer movement through voluntary consumers, organisations. In order to give impetus to voluntary consumer movement, Central Government will be organising an All India seminar of voluntary consumers, organisations in January, 1986.

Use of Dangerous Pesticides

1268. PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of pesticides used by Indian farmers per year;

(b) whether we are using pesticides which are prohibited in Western countries; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to prevent the use of dangerous pesticides ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The total consumption of pesticides for the year 1984-85 was of the order of 56,000 M.T. in terms of technical grade material. The expected demand of pesticides for the year 1985-86 is 66,000 M T.

(b) Some of the pesticides which are restricted in other countries are being used in India.

(c) Some of the major steps taken to prevent the use of dangerous pesticides are as under :—