

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 38.5% 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 :—