

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We will supply such grain only to starch manufacturers and the other people can purchase the grain for cattle feeding.

Shri Gidwani: Was it certified unfit for human consumption before it was auctioned?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It has been answered already.

Shri A. M. Thomas: In the last Session of Parliament the hon. Minister stated that when complaints reached him from Bombay to the effect that there were inadequate storage arrangements there, he immediately went to the city and made arrangements. Has this accident happened subsequent to that or before that?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not want of accommodation; it is because of excessive rains.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I do not know.

Shri T. N. Singh: If these 900 bags were certified as unfit for human consumption why was it not used by the Government themselves?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): It has been clearly stated that our Technical Adviser said that this is unfit for human consumption and can be used only as cattle feed or for manufacture of starch. Therefore, it was auctioned.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister was repeatedly telling the House that it was certified by the Entomologist, as unfit for human consumption and it was auctioned. May I know, Sir, why an Entomologist who is an expert on insects is asked to certify about the food, the quality of the food and the possibility of consumption of that food etc?

Shri Kidwai: He clearly stated that our Technical Adviser gave us advice that it is not fit for human consumption.

ALDRIN

*980. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Aldrin, a new insecticide, has been used during locust campaign in the Rajasthan area;

(b) if so, its results; and

(c) whether it produced any ill effects on human beings or animals?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):
(a) Yes.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

(c) No. But it may have a cumulative effect, yet unknown.

STATEMENT

The results of the use of Aldrin for locust control operations.

Aldrin has been used on resting swarms and hoppers of all stages in doses of 5.33 and 3.39 oz. per acre respectively. It proved highly toxic. Mortality in the case of adults was about 75 per cent. while in the case of hoppers cent per cent kill was obtained. The residual effect of this insecticide is fairly long. This property of the chemical is of great advantage in locust control. Locusts passing through sprayed vegetation will die either by mere contact or as a result of eating, while egg-laid areas can be re-treated with aldrin in expectation of the emergence of hoppers.

Shri Gidwani: Sir, it is said that aldrin has been proved to be highly toxic and that locusts passing through sprayed vegetation will die either by mere contact or as a result of eating. May I know, in regard to part (c), whether it has produced any ill-effects on animals which move through these areas or eat sprayed vegetation?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: No bad effect on animals or human beings has

been reported, although it has been very extensively used on wide areas.

Shri Raghavaiah: Are the Government aware that by the use of such insecticides, the officers in charge of the anti-locust campaign are reported to have said that laryngitis is likely to be one of the diseases from which human beings who breathe that air are likely to suffer when attacked?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is answered in part (c) of the question.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We have not received any such report.

REDUCTION IN PRICE OF SINDRI FERTILIZER

*982. **Shri Kidwai:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item published in the "Times of India", Bombay edition, dated the 18th June, 1953 to the effect that owing to the reduction in the price of ammonium sulphate and the rebate allowed to State Governments on their purchases, there may be considerable loss to the Government of India; and

(b) if so, what is the estimated amount of loss?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes. It is the Government's policy to reduce progressively the price of sulphate of ammonia so as to make its use profitable for the rice grower. In reducing the pool price this year to Rs. 290 from Rs. 365 in the previous year, a rebate was given to State Governments on stocks held by them in the beginning of the year.

(b) About Rs. 50 lakhs.

Shri Jaipal Singh: The hon. Minister said that it is the Government's policy to reduce progressively the price of ammonium sulphate. In this particular instance, is it not a fact that they have been compelled to reduce the price because there has been an accumulation of undisposible stock?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, Sir. That was not the compelling fact.

Shri C. D. Pande: Are the Government aware that even after the reduction of prices of the fertilisers, the Japanese fertilisers are being sold cheaper than the internal fertilisers in the country?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The hon. Member knows, I suppose, that the Japanese give some subsidy on their export. I understand that their prices are not less than the prices of the product from the Sindri factory. At that price, it is being sold in Japan. We don't have the Japanese figures at present.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know whether the price of fertilisers manufactured at Sindri is determined by taking the cost of production overall cost—plus some margin, or whether it was arbitrarily fixed at something like Rs. 360. now reduced by about Rs. 80?

Shri Kidwai: The hon. Member has enunciated the principle of fixing the price correctly. Now that the production is going up, prices are now going down.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury: Is it a fact that the supply of fertilisers to the State of Assam is made through Calcutta as a result of which we in Assam have to pay much higher prices than the prices obtaining elsewhere?

Shri Kidwai: The fertilisers are supplied, I think in every case, to Assam Government direct from Sindri. I think that the hon. Member has in mind the supply to the tea gardens of Assam, for which a contract was made with a firm in Calcutta for supply to the tea gardens. Now that thing will be remedied.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury: Are the Government aware that the supply through Calcutta is more expensive than the supply direct from Sindri?

Shri Kidwai: I agree.