

boost to our floriculture industry and export of cut flowers.

Pearl-Culture—Glittering Possibilities:

With the research support of ICAR Institutes both freshwater and marine pearl culture have been taken up on commercial scale. Efforts are afoot for technology upgradation for development of pearl images and coloured pearls.

Cifaca—Quality Fish Feed:

Developed by ICAR Institute CIFA, the new fish feed provides:

- High fish production, quality fish flesh, efficient feed conversion, good palatability and water stability.

Surgical Sutures from Fish-Gut as Import Substitute:

From guts of carps medically proven and acceptable surgical sutures developed and technology for commercial production.

Embryo Transfer Technology (ETT):

It is being used as a critical tool for improving productivity in cattle, buffalo, sheep and goat. Through superovulation and ETT, 50-60 calves can be produced from a bovine female in life time.

More Wool-Better Wool:

New productive strains of sheep have been evolved and are being used for further improving sheep breeds for carpet and apparel wool.

Crossbreeding in Cattle:

A high yielding cattle strain 'Frieswal' has been evolved with the milk yield of around 3000 litres in first lactation and 4000 litres in mature lactation. The Frieswal programme is being geared to meet the total requirement of high quality semen in the country. A record production of over 68 million tonnes of milk was reached.

Value Addition for Higher Earnings:

- Lac is being used for making dyes and high class perfumes.
- Process for making liquid jaggery and jaggery powder standardised.

- Spray dried instant banana-milk powder developed.

Farm and Post Harvest Mechanisation:

- Animal drawn drill plough.
- High capacity multicrop thresher.
- Improved kinnow harvester and portable kinnow grader.
- Mini dal mill.
- Bullock drawn groundnut planter.
- Zero tillage seed drill for planting wheat after rice.
- Rice transplanter.
- Sugarcane harvest.

Soil and Groundwater Mapping:

To promote better land resource management, soil maps for all the states have been prepared using ground surveys and remotely sensed data. To enhance the user-reach, digitalisation of these maps is in progress. A groundwater quality map was published for development of groundwater resources.

Proper Use of Pesticides Spraying Equipments by Farmers

996. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL :
SHRI VIJAY PATEL :
SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the large remnants of pesticides remain left on the crop it shows that the pesticides are not being used properly as a result water gets polluted and infected the foodgrains which are being supplied to the general public causing health hazards;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to specify the standard of spraying equipments and to educate the farmers about the proper use of pesticides in the agriculture sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to curb/ban the excessive use of pesticides/chemicals in agriculture sector which are harmful for health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The residues of pesticides do not cause any known health hazards and pollution problems, if used as per recommendations. All the pesticides containers have labels and leaflets incorporating the approved usage as per Insecticides Act, 1968 and the rules framed thereunder. These usages are approved by the Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968.

(c) and (d) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under the Deptt. of Food & Consumer Affairs specifies and publishes standards of spraying equipment. Both Central and State Governments undertake various programmes to educate the farmers about proper use of pesticides in the agricultural sector.

(e) The following steps are being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the excessive use of pesticides/chemicals in agricultural sector:—

- (i) Banning of 20 pesticides including some of the persistent pesticides.
- (ii) Restricting the use of 13 pesticides to avoid problem of pesticide residue and health hazard.
- (iii) Promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) encompassing cultural, mechanical, biological control methods and need-based use of chemical pesticides for the benefit of farmers.
- (iv) Advocating use of bio-pesticides including neem based pesticides and pheromones.
- (v) Imparting training to farmers and the extension workers on IPM technologies.
- (vi) Conducting IPM demonstrations on various crops for the benefit of farmers and extension workers.

[English]

Insurance Scheme

997. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce compulsory group insurance of people living in the coastal areas against cyclone, flood, earthquake etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether this scheme is applicable to the people living in the coastal areas of the Orissa State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. A Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) with an average annual allocation of Rs. 1260.00 crores has been constituted for relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities. Financial assistance to the families of people who die in the wake of natural calamities is also provided from this Fund, in addition to assistance from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. Under the Group Accident Insurance Component of the National Welfare of Fishermen Scheme, upto 11.50 lakh active fishermen were insured against death and permanent/partial disability by accident during the Eighth Plan period.

(d) and (e) Orissa has a CRF allocation of Rs. 258.01 crores for the period 1995-96 to 1999-2000. One lakh active fishermen in the State were insured during the Eighth Plan period against death and disability by accident.

Intra-venous Fluids

998. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that high margin of more than 100 per cent is being charged by the stockists on intra-venous fluids;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is proposal under consideration of the Government to put intra-venous fluids under the price control;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e) Govt. is seized of