

Empty Bags of N.F.L.

4015. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the open usage and sale of fresh bags of Fertiliser Companies are restricted under Fertiliser Control Act under criminal act;

(b) whether Additional Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police, Jabalpur have seized empty fresh bags of Rashtriya Chemical Fertiliser Limited and Krishak Bhartiya Cooperative Limited while selling in the open market by traders for duplicating of fertilisers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government against the guilty persons and companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) There is no provision under Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 which regulates sale of fresh bags of fertilizer companies.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Reservation to Dalit Christians and Muslims

4016. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposed to offer benefits of reservation to Dalit Christians and Muslims of the country; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Scheduled caste converts to Christianity are at present eligible for reservation benefits applicable to Other Backward Classes by virtue of their inclusion in the Central Lists of OBCs in relation to the States of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Tamil Nadu and the Union Territories of Chandigarh, Damman & Diu and Pondicherry. The Muslim members of Communities categorised as Other Backward Classes (OBCs) are eligible for reservation benefits applicable to OBCs. Scheduled Tribes, who profess Islam are also eligible for the benefits of reservation as available to Scheduled Tribes.

Sun Flower

4017. SHRI ANUPLAL YADAV : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sun Flower is grown in abundance in Supaul in Sarsa District of Bihar;

(b) whether the farmers have to destroy their product due to absence of any industrial unit;

(c) whether the Government have any plan for setting up of any industrial unit for the utilisation of Sun Flower in the State and to give due benefit to the farmers of their products;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the alternative arrangement the Government propose in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) No, Sir. Sunflower is not an important crop in the State of Bihar as the production is ranging between 4.6 to 5.0 thousand tonnes only. The area under sunflower crop in Bihar is ranging between 6.9 to 10.7 thousand hectares.

(b) There are 8 solvent extraction units and 6 vanaspati units in the State of Bihar. Since the delicensing of vegetable oil industry w.e.f. 25.1.1991, authentic information about the number of oilseed crushing units in Bihar is not available. Therefore, the question of farmers having to destroy their product due to absence of industrial unit does not arise.

(c) to (e) Central Government has no plan for setting up of any unit in the Vegetable Oil Sector. However, NAFED which is the nodal agency for procurement of farmer's product on the Minimum Support Price announced by the Government, from time to time, is responsible for procuring the produce of sunflower from farmers.

Outbreak of Yellow Fever

4018. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the WHO has since warned of a possible outbreak of yellow fever in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the basis on which outbreak of yellow fever in the country is anticipated by the WHO;

(c) whether the hand of certain foreign power is feared in the spread of this disease as they might have conducted certain virus tests in the country; and