

12.09 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the National Waterway (Allahabad-Haldia Stretch of the Ganga - Bhagirathi - Hooghly River) Bill, 1982, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th July, 1982."

NATIONAL WATERWAY (ALLAHABAD - HALDIA STRETCH OF THE GANGA - BHAGIRATHI - HOOGHLY RIVER) BILL

AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY : Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the National Waterway (Allahabad - Haldia Stretch of the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River) Bill, 1982, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

12.10 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to check and cure the disease affecting apple crop in Himachal Pradesh and J.K.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Bala-sore) : Under Rule 377, I am making the following statement :

Apple scab, one of the most dreaded disease has been playing havoc with the apple crop in Himachal Pradesh and to some extent in Jammu and Kashmir for the past several years. Even last year, this disease caused appreciable damage to the fruit. The current apple crop in Himachal which in any case is not in a good shape owing to the freakish weather in April-May, is again facing serious threat from the disease. Random surveys conducted during the past few year have revealed that this fungal disease has almost established itself in pockets of all the major apple growing areas of Himachal Pradesh. The fungus has been found to exist in both forms perfect

(*Venturia inaequalis*) and imperfect (*Spilocaea Pomi*). The spores produced by the gungus (technically called ascospores) have been observed to be the primary source of infection. It is now possible to predict the likely disease potential in a particular season by studying the maturity and productivity of ascospore.

Although several methods of controlling this disease have been discovered, experts lay more stress on preventive, rather than curative measures. The ideal method is the growing, three hybrids (identified by number 82, 84 and 157) developed in Himachal Pradesh have remained free from this disease under natural conditions as well as in experimental fields where they were deliberately exposed to the infection. Planning of such varieties on a large scale provided an easy way to combat the menace, but till now no grower has started its plantation in a large scale due to absence of proper persuasion and wide propaganda and demonstration etc.

Some fungicid spray schedules have been worked out as prophylactic measures for warding off this disease. Spraying of 0.3 per cent solution of this fungicide in summer can effectively control primary as well as secondary scab on both leaves and fruit. Other fungicides for this purpose include Bayoor, Sisthan, Bavistin, Dithane, Daconil and Delan. Application of four fungicides (Bavistin, Dithane M.45, Diforlatan and Cuman-L) in six sprays starting with the release of ascospores can provide almost complete control of scab disease. These fungicides have also been found to suppress some other fungal maladies including leafspots, sooty-blotch and fly-speck, and some pests like the red spider-mites. But due to proper knowledge of the apple growers in Himachal Pradesh and Kashmir specially who reside in countryside, the number of such growers would be 85 per cent in the state, they don't know the application of the pesticides except very few whose number can be counted on fingers.

In considering the gravity of the situation since the economy of the two states depend upon this apple cultivation, the Government may kindly take up the issue with the state government concerned so