

Parliamentary Delegation They cannot allow things like these and conflicts between one Minister and another Minister in the Andhra State. Why are they trying to create conflict between State and Centre?

MR SPEAKER Mr Stephen

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

NINTH REPORT

SHRI C M STEPHEN (Idukki)
Sir, I beg to present the Ninth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on Paragraph 50 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1973-74, Union Government (Civil) on Forest Department, Andaman

STATEMENT RE REDUCTION IN
THE PRICES OF PESTICIDES

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H N BAHUGUNA) We have been concerned with the stagnation in the demand for pesticides. The stagnation appears to be partly due to the resistance of the farmer to the prices of pesticides. Keeping in view the vital role of pesticides for agriculture, Government have been taking steps to make this essential input available to the farmers at reasonable prices.

A preliminary cost study made in respect of ten major items of pesticides manufactured in this country revealed that there was some scope for reduction in the prices of technical grade pesticides and consequently their formulations. Government initiated a dialogue with the industry to impress upon them the need for bringing down the prices of pesticides. A series of meetings took place between Government and the industry. I also called the representatives of the major units and impressed upon them that Government was anxious for an immediate reduction in the prices of pesticides.

As a result, I am happy to inform the House that the industry has now brought down the prices of a number of major pesticides and their formulations upto 12 per cent including BHC, Malathion and 2-4-D with effect from 1-11-77. The Pesticides Association of India has informed us that these reductions have already become effective in most of the cases. The industry has agreed to ensure marking of the revised maximum retail price on each package under the Packaged Commodities (Regulation) Order. They have also agreed to give suitable publicity to the reductions in the regional languages.

I trust that the farmers will take full advantage of these reductions and make optimum use of pesticides to prevent damage to the crops.

12 30 hrs.

RE MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

PROF P G MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar) I rise on a point of order. We have to send you notices before 10 O'clock regarding matters which are serious and grave. Notices are being given under Rule 377. We have been told 'It is not coming today. It is not coming today.' Is it a rule for one or two days only or is it a blanket rule for the entire session?

MR SPEAKER Only for yesterday and today. The BAC said that there is no legislative work before Rajya Sabha and therefore they said that for 2 days they will give preference to legislative work. It is only for 2 days.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY (Barrackpore) I have given notice under Rule 377 about the demonstration of Railway and Defence Employees demanding 8.33 per cent bonus. They have all assembled in the Boat Club.

MR SPEAKER The Business Advisory Committee has decided that

SHRI SAUGATA ROY It should keep in mind the interests of the people.