

ent sections of workmen, further negotiated the issue and arrived at bipartite Memorandum of Settlement on 7.4.1990 for implementing the Award.

[*English*]

SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI: The answer of the hon. Minister shows that the dispute started in the year 1975 or so. After 15 years, it came to an end.

But, of course the dispute started where there was another Government and the dispute came to an end when there is a new Government. The main point is in this case the Aralam Farm is a farm directly under the control of the Central Government. The dispute is regarding the increase of wages. In this case the Central Government or the Aralam Farm took the matter to the High Court and the High Court rejected the contention of the management. Thereafter the management took the matter to the Supreme Court.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your questions.

SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI: My point is even though this a simple labour dispute the management is directly under the Union Government and the matter was taken to the Supreme Court.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please put your question?

SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI: My point is, the workers are harassed by this method. Now this matter has been settled. It shows that the management is a reactionary management. I want to know if the Government is going to replace the personnel of the management of the Aralam Farm so that a proper functioning of the farm can be ensured, at least in the future.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the details regarding, the year of dispute, decisions taken by the Industrial Tribunal, the High Court and the Supreme

Court have been given in the reply. All the things have been mentioned. On 7th of April, 1990, a memorandum of settlement was reached between the Management and the three recognised unions—C.I.T.U., I.T.U.C. and another union and it was signed by the C.P.I.(M) M.L.A. on behalf of I.T.U.C. and the Award was implemented. This is the present situation.

[*English*]

SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI: This is a very good thing. Now, they have come to a settlement after I gave the question here. Anyhow, it leads to one things, that is, the Central Government has got a large number of public sector industries and the number of employees runs into lakhs. Now, if the Central Government deals with its workers like this in this way, what will happen to the workers of the private sector? "So, my request is that the Central Government may have a permanent machinery to settle disputes of this nature in future so that the Central Government can show to the private sector management how to deal with the workers.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is already a tribunal to settle such disputes. So that is no need to do anything separately.

#### Deaths Due to Insecticides in Uttar Pradesh

\*968. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several persons have died due to insecticide in Uttar Pradesh since 1986; and

(b) if so, the preventive steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT**

(a) Yes, sir.

(b) The Government is aware of the fact that the pesticides are toxic in nature and can cause death and other associated hazards due to pesticide poisoning if not handled properly. It is, therefore, the policy and the endeavour of the Government, to register only those pesticides whose efficacy and safety are proved. Being toxic in nature, pesticides have to be used judiciously in accordance with the prescribed detailed instructions and after observing well laid down safety precautions. In this strategy training of the State Government functionaries and farmers in the safe and proper handling of the pesticides has been given due emphasis. To regulate the import, manufacture and use of insecticides an Act, known as Insecticides Act, was promulgated in 1968. Under the Insecticides Rules, 1971, framed under the said Act, detailed Guidelines have been laid down regarding the information/instructions to be printed on the labels and leaflets accompanying the container of pesticides. These include precautions for its use, safety measures to be taken, symptoms of poisoning, first-aid measures, treatment etc. in three languages i.e. English, Hindi and one of the regional languages.

**DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:** It has been accepted by the hon. Minister that deaths occur due to these pesticides. I would like to submit that even though the hon. Minister is aware of the fact, pesticides worth Rs. 2 lakhs had been imported till last year and now the imported consignment is worth Rs. 80 lakhs. There is increase in the number of deaths also. Earlier the number of deaths due to pesticides was 14,000 in the entire country. Now they have increased. The Government has no control over the pesticides which are sent from here. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how many deaths have occurred in Uttar Pradesh due to the toxic nature of these insecticides till now, how many persons have fallen sick and how many persons have died due to lack of

medical treatment? Please give the information.

**SHRI NITISH KUMAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, when this question was received we tried to contact the Uttar Pradesh Government and an official was also sent from here. The Lok Sabha Secretariat knows that this question has been postponed for this week.

We have received some information from the Uttar Pradesh Government, but haven't received the full information. According to the details we have got, in 1986, 5 children died due to food poisoning in Jhansi district, in 1988, 55 persons affected by aluminium phosphate were admitted to the Medical College, Meerut, out of which 40 persons died and 15 survived. Our Ministry has gathered this information on its own. This information has been gathered from the Journal of Association of Physicians of India. We have got this information from there and not from the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Again in 1990, there was some news of death in Basti district, which came out in the news papers also. So after a lot of efforts, the Central Government received information, according to which, 64 persons died of food poisoning in Basti district. After a laboratory test, it was confirmed that accidentally BHP got mixed up in the wheat flour. This is not the full information. The Uttar Pradesh Government is collecting more information in this regard. According to the information received till now, the number of deaths are five in Jhansi, 40 in Meerut and 64 in Basti. This is the information we have got. (*Interruptions*)

**DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:** I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that even though, there is a ban on Aluminium Phosphate, it is being openly sold in the market and due to it a lot of deaths have occurred in different places. The information given here by the hon. Minister is not correct. Already 100 deaths have been reported in Basti district due to the poisoning from BHP. It came in the newspapers also and you must have read it. I would like to know how much

compensation has been paid and what arrangements are being made to pay the compensation to the next of kin of those who died due to this.

**SHRI NITISH KUMAR:** So far as the question that even though a particular pesticide is banned, it is being openly sold in the market is concerned, there is already an Act to check it and a committee was also constituted under the Chairmanship of the Plant Protection Advisor here. *(Interruptions)* Out of the 14 pesticides, which are scheduled to be banned, 10 were banned. 17 new pesticides have been sent for tests to ensure their quality. All these things are being done by the Government on central level and so far as the question of availability in the markets is concerned, action can be taken against it under the Act. The Government is making arrangements in this regard. *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was that how many farmers had died while spraying pesticides in the fields. You have given the total number. I didn't ask for total number. I only asked how many children of farmers had died while spraying pesticides in the fields. Please reply.

**SHRI NITISH KUMAR:** We have no such information. *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:** The hon. Minister has admitted that the Uttar Pradesh Government didn't send a reply to information asked by the Centre. Whether any official was sent to collect the information from Uttar Pradesh Government? *(Interruptions)* The hon. Minister has given wrong information to the House. The Hon. Speaker should postpone this question, because all the pesticides banned by the Central Government in Uttar Pradesh are being openly sold in the markets and a lot of farmers had died in Uttar Pradesh due to it. The legislators of Uttar Pradesh have de-

manded that the Government should pay a compensation of Rs. 50,000/- to the next of kin of those who have died due to these pesticides. Will the Government make a announcement to this effect?

**SHRI NITISH KUMAR:** First of all, I would like to submit that I haven't said that we have received no information from U.P. Government. Instead of that I have said that we haven't received the full information. They have said that they are collecting the information.

**SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:** Mr. Speaker, I would request you to postpone this question, as the hon. Minister is replying on the basis of newspaper reports. The reply should be given two days later with correct information.

**SHRI NITISH KUMAR:** There is no need for that. I would like to inform the House that the Centre is fully aware of the gravity of the situation. There is the Insecticides Act, 1968 for collecting and giving the information. It is a Central and a provision is there in Section 26 of this Act that the State Government will notify and provide information. It clears the entire situation. But we have not yet received the full information in this regard. So the government will take the initiative on its own and will try to collect all the information.

Another thing I would like to submit to the House is that we propose to set up an Information Centre under the National Pesticides and Poison Control Act in the Eighth five Year Plan.

**SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT:** I would like to know from the hon. Minister who was responsible of this incident of B:IP getting mixed in wheat flour in Basti district and what action has been taken in this regard? *(Interruptions)*