energy demands. These results also suggest that there is economy in the utilisation of glycogen under methyl parathion exposure. To verify this possibility, the regulatory enzyme phosphorylase 'a' and 'b' were estimated. The phosphorylase 'a' (active form) showed a significant decrease ranging from 33 to 50% in the tissues, while phosphorylase 'b' (inactive form) showed significant decrease in hepatopancreas (24%) and insignificant trends in mantle and foot (table 1). These observations suggest that there is economy in the utilisation of glycogen.

Earlier studies on the same species showed loss of ions, more so of $Ca^{++}$ and increase in organic acid content in the tissues[14]. Since $Ca^{++}$ is known to indirectly to inhibit the activation of phosphorylase 'b' to phosphorylase 'a'[15] and since organic acids are known to inhibit the phosphorylase activity[16], it is quite probable that the loss of $Ca^{++}$ and accumulation of organic acids during methyl parathion stress should inhibit glycogenolysis. This shows the regulation of phosphorylase in the utilisation and retention of glycogen in these tissues. Since glycogen cannot be totally exhausted, the decrease in the total carbohydrates suggests compensation of glycogen breakdown to meet the energy demands of the methyl parathion stress condition.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

### SECOND INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE PHYSICS OF SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES SSPL, DELHI, INDIA

The Solid State Physics Laboratory is organising the Second International Workshop on the "Physics of Semiconductor Devices" at Vigyan Bhawan from December 5-10 this year. The Workshop is being sponsored by many institutions, including the Committee of Science and Technology in Developing Countries (COSTED) UNESCO. Recent trends and developments in the semiconductor field with emphasis on Si, GaAs and alloys of III-V compounds, other materials, needed in semiconductor devices and VLSI will be discussed. Advances made in MOS, Solar Cell, IR detectors, other optoelectronic devices, microwave devices, LSI and VLSI including short channel effect will also be included.

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