

(v) Allotment of LIG, MIG and General Housing.

(vi) Ground Rent Section.

(vii) Commercial Cell Branch.

(viii) Sale of commercial plots and built up shops.

(ix) Housing Department.

(x) Building plans sanction work.

(c) 56,700 Square feet.

(d) (i) By giving more space to Planning and Architecture Department already located in Vikas Minar, for relieving their congestion.

(ii) By shifting some branches of Planning and Architecture Departments, located elsewhere, to Vikas Minar.

(iii) By shifting Chief Engineers presently located elsewhere to Vikas Minar.

(e) Yes.

(f) (i) Members of the Authority

(ii) Secretary and his office

(iii) Finance and Accounts Branch

(iv) Personnel Department

(v) Public Relation Department.

(g) No.

Import of edible Oil and Sugar

890. SHRI S. M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to import edible oil and sugar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) whether palm oil will also be imported ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The reasons for import of edible oils and Sugar are as follows :

Edible Oils : There has been a gap between the demand for and availability of indigenous edible oils in the country for the last few years. The gap is partly being met by imports.

Sugar : Sugar is being imported to augment the availability, to curb speculation and hoarding tendencies and to keep the price index under check.

(c) Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

Fixation of Price of Agricultural Produce

891. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :
DR. A. K. PATEL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State :

(a) whether Government's attention has been down to the demand of farmers' organisations that while fixing the price of agricultural produce, cost of production, the extent of loss suffered due to natural calamities and other reasons and the extent of remuneration to be given to farmers on their produce, should be taken into account; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, Government have taken keeping in view the demands made by farmers' organisations from time to time and are fixing support prices of various agricultural commodities with the objectives of providing remunerative prices. These prices not only cover the cost of production but also provide a reasonable margin of profit to the farmers. Losses suffered on account of natural calamities are sought to be mitigated through various relief measures.

[English]

Effective Marketing System for the Produce of Small Farmers

892. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA :
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any effective marketing system for the produce of the marginal and small farmers to ensure good returns to them; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps Government propose to take for creating effective marketing system in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). There is a net-work of agricultural produce markets in the country which are regulated under the relevant State Acts. As on 31.3.1984, 5579 agricultural markets were provisionally reported to have been regulated in various States/Union Territories. In addition, in order to bring the market system within easy reach of farmers, including small and marginal farmers, the Government of India provides assistance for the development of agricultural markets under a Central Sector Scheme. Till 28.2.1985, central assistance of Rs. 4820.66 lakh has been released for the development of 2833 agricultural markets in various States/Union Territories.

Further, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices recommends support prices for agricultural commodities within its purview. Where necessary, price support operations are undertaken by agencies like the Food Corporation of India, National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Limited, Cotton Corporation of India, Jute Corporation of India, etc. as also various State level corporations, and cooperative societies for protecting the interests of farmers, including small and marginal farmers.

The marketing cooperatives also play an important role in effective marketing of

the produce of its members, including small and marginal farmers.

Funds to the States under RLEGP

893. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount released to major States for Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the State schemes, for RLEGP assistance require prior approval of Central Government;

(c) if so, the prescribed approval procedure; and

(d) the interval between receipt of proposal from the States and their approval by Central Government in respect of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh for 1983-84 and 1984-85 ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) The amount released to the States in 1983-84 and 1984-85 under the rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) is given in the Annexure.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Under the RLEGP, the State Governments are required to prepare specific projects in accordance with the instructions issued for the formulation of projects and submit them to the Department of Rural Development for approval and sanction by the Central Committee for NREP/RLEGP.

(d) The interval between receipt of the proposals from the States and their approval by the Central Government has varied between less than a month to approximately four months. However, a majority of the proposals have been approved within a month of their receipt, as all proposals received by the due date have been placed before the Central Committee for consideration at its next meeting and the Central Committee has met almost every month between November, 1983 to January, 1985. It is only