

Increase in off-take of Foodgrain

1227. PROF. RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the off-take of foodgrains for Public Distribution System from the Central Pool has increased ;

(b) the Government's thinking in this regard ;

(c) whether Government are aware that this demand will increase further due to inadequate rainfall and the drought conditions which are prevailing over large part of the country ; and

(d) if so, the steps to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government are fully alive to the situation. With the good kharif production expected and in view of sufficient stocks of foodgrains available with the Government, the Government do not envisage any difficulty in meeting the reasonable requirements. Also efforts are being made to build up the stocks, by maximising procurement. Imports also are resorted to if and when considered necessary, after various circumstances are taken into account.

I. C. A. R. Panels

1228. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the ICAR scientific panelwise list of Chairman/members and member secretary before 1979-80 and thereafter along with

number of cess-fund supported schemes, proposed by each as its principal investigator ;

(b) how many of these proposals were rejected, got revised and were recommended and finally sanctioned along with title and amount and duration of sanction for each scheme with date of start ; and

(c) measures Government purpose to prevent misuse of membership privileges in the ICAR panels ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) The information is not readily available and the same will be collected and placed on the Table of the House.

(c) There is no bar on any chairman/member of a Scientific Panel being a Principal Investigator of a Cess Fund Scheme. However as a convention, when a proposal for such research schemes is considered by the panel, the concerned member is not present. Therefore, the question of misuse of membership privilege in ICAR Scientific Panels does not arise.

Talks with Bangladesh on Teesta waters

1229. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there was meeting in this month (July 1983) between the representatives of the two countries, Bangladesh and India, on the question of sharing the waters of the Teesta ; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the meeting and the numbers of times meetings were held on this subject ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b) The question of sharing the waters of the Teesta has been recently under discussion in the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission since