

result of a request from the Central Government, but the extent of their assistance is not known.

Procurement of Rice from Surplus States

- *7. **Shri Batmiki:**
Shri Bagri:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:
Shri Kinshen Pattanayak:
Shri Bhanu Prakash Singh:
Shri Yashpal Singh:

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any scheme for the procurement of rice from the surplus States;

(b) the quantity of rice proposed to be procured for the deficit States; and

(c) the broad details of the procurement policy of Government?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) and (b). There is no scheme of direct procurement by Central Government. The State Governments of the surplus States will procure rice and make it available to Government for supply to the deficit States. It has not been possible to fix firm targets of procurement as yet. Efforts are, however, being made to maximise procurement on Government account.

(c) The broad details of the procurement policy are as follows:

1. Procurement is being undertaken not only in surplus

States but also in deficit States to enable control of Government over as large a part of the marketable surplus as possible.

2. Previously, procurement was confined to foodgrains like paddy, rice and wheat. The scope of procurement has now been broadened to include coarse cereals like jawar, bajra, maize and gram.

3. The sources from which procurement used to be made have been broad-based to include the producers in addition to the millers and the registered dealers.

Intensive Agricultural Programmes

- *8. **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent detailed study made by his Ministry has revealed that the intensive agricultural programmes are likely to be hampered by the shortage of fertilisers and pesticides; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to make enough of fertilisers and pesticides available for carrying the programmes through?

The Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri C. Subramaniam):

(a) and (b). No such study has been made by the Department of Agricul-

ture. The Central Department of Agriculture is, however, seized of the problem of making available adequate quantities of fertilizers and pesticides for the areas covered by the Intensive Agricultural Programmes. The year-wise requirements of these inputs during the Fourth Plan period are being estimated and arrangements made to meet them by stepping up the programme of indigenous production of fertilizers and pesticides and arranging larger imports.

Block Development Officers

- *9. Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
 Shri P. C. Borooah:
 Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:
 Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri D. N. Tiwary:
 Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
 Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
 Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:
 Shri Krishnapal Singh:
 Shri H. C. Soy:
 Shri Kajrolkar:
 Shri Man Singh P. Patel:
 Shri R. S. Pandey:
 Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
 Shri Hukam Chand
 Kachhavaia:

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to abolish the post of Block Development Officers;

(b) if so, the decision taken in this regard; and

(c) the alternative arrangements envisaged for the performance of the duties assigned to the Block Development Officers?

The Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) to (c). The Central Government have no proposal to abolish the post of Block Development Officers. The decision of the Government of

Madhya Pradesh in this regard is under consideration.

Haldia Port

- *10. Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
 Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:
 Shri P. C. Borooah:
 Shri Indrajit Gupta:
 Shri Madhu Limaye:
 Dr. Ranen Sen:
 Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
 Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:
 Shri P. H. Bheel:
 Shri Hem Barua:
 Shri P. K. Deo:
 Shri Karni Singhji:
 Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shrimati Jyotsna, Chanda:
 Shri Bagri:
 Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:
 Shri Yashpal Singh:

Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations and findings of the Study Team appointed by Government about the traffic likely to be handled at Calcutta and Haldia Ports and also the financial and other aspects of Haldia Dock Schemes;

(b) the reaction of the World Bank Appraisal Team which recently visited India on the findings of the Study Team;

(c) whether the Appraisal Team has already submitted its report to the World Bank; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the World Bank about the Haldia Scheme and Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) According to the assessment made by the Haldia Study Team, the traffic which the Calcutta--Haldia port system may be called