

**Feed for Cattle**

**\*609. Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:**  
**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**  
**Shri Subodh Hansda:**

Will the Minister of **Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in some States, the land set apart for grazing cattle is being converted into agricultural fields; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken up the matter with the State Governments to take alternative steps to ensure enough feed for cattle in lieu thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of **Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shinde)**: (a) The information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table as soon as possible.

(b) Does not arise.

**Enhancement of price of Rice in States**

**\*610. Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
**Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:**  
**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**

Will the Minister of **Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enhance the price of rationed rice in all the States supplied by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the increase in price will affect the consumers in West Bengal where the price is already high?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of **Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon)**: (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**F-28 Fokker Friendship Aircraft**

**\*611. Shri D. D. Puri:** Will the Minister of **Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision on the purchase of the improved version of F-28 Fokker Friendship aircraft; and

(b) if so, whether Government have satisfied themselves about the suitability of these aircraft to the Indian conditions?

The Minister of **Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy)**: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Ad hoc grant to Drought-hit States**

**\*612. Shri P. R. Chakraverti:**  
**Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:**

Will the Minister of **Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have made an ad hoc financial allocation to the drought-hit States to enable them to defer realization of the agricultural credit from affected farmers; and

(b) if so, the total amount of such allocation for the drought-hit States?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of **Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra)**: (a) Loans have been given by the Central Government to State Governments for strengthening stabilisation funds of their apex cooperative banks, so as to enable them to convert short-term agricultural loans received by member-cultivators from cooperative societies, into medium-term loans, thus deferring the process of repayment and making them eligible for fresh finance.

(b) The total amount of loans sanctioned during the current year is Rs. 6775 crores to eight States.