

fertiliser plant in Andhra to meet the growing demand for it there?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The recommendation was not to start a fertiliser factory but to import more fertilisers so as to meet the entire demand of the country and we are taking action to import as much fertilisers as possible.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): The question of a fertiliser factory has come up before the House more than once. The second Five Year Plan provides for the setting up of three fertiliser factories. On account of the foreign exchange difficulties, I do not know whether the programme will be fulfilled and for the time being we are trying to meet the shortfall by imports.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: May I know why Srinagar was chosen for the Conference? Was it a joy ride for the Minister?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa rose—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Ministers need not answer questions which are by way of insinuation or mockery. This is not the House where hon. Members, who are representing 8 lakhs or 800,000 of population, or 16 lakhs of population sometimes, could make all sorts of insinuations or remarks which will elicit more laughter than a serious reply to the questions.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know what steps have been taken to implement all these decisions arrived at the Conference in respect of the recommendations about the fixation of minimum prices and also about the establishment of a committee of experts and administrators?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: About the fixing of minimum prices for agricultural produce, the National Development Council also decided that we must fix the prices, and then the Government of India in the Food and Agriculture Ministry issued a notification on the 15th July stating the policy in that regard.

Shri B. S. Murthy: What about the expert committee? I wanted to know whether any committee of experts and administrators has been appointed according to the recommendations made.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It does not require any committee of experts. There is already a declaration made by the Food Ministry.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: The hon. Minister stated that in view of the difficulties of foreign exchange, the fertiliser factory programme may not come through and the answer also stated that we are going to import fertilisers. May I know what will be the difference in the amount of foreign exchange required for importing fertilisers and the amount which would have been required to set up a factory?

Shri A. P. Jain: Those figures have not been worked out, but surely we will require much more to start a fertiliser factory.

Shri Thirumala Rao: In view of the great necessity for fertilisers, which are in short supply, and also in view of the great demand for foreign exchange, is Government considering as a matter of policy whether they could invite foreign capital to come to India and start the fertiliser industry in India?

Shri A. P. Jain: Formerly, the idea was that the fertiliser plant should be located in the public sector, but of late there has been a shift in the policy, and it has been decided that fertiliser should be set up in the private sector too.

Grants-in-Aid for Non-Railway Schools

*725. **Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is provision for giving from Railway revenues grants-in-aid to non-Railway schools where

children of Railway employees are studying;

(b) whether the Utkal Vidyapith at Kharagpur gets such grants-in-aid; and

(c) whether the said institute has got any financial assistance from the Staff Benefit Fund?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether the Utkal Vidyapith asked for any grant from the Railway Funds as a recurring or a non-recurring grant?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Yes, Sir. They did ask for a grant last year, but their request could not be complied with. They have again put in a request which is under consideration.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know why this request was not acceded to?

Mr. Speaker: It is being considered now.

Shri Panigrahi: Last year they did not get any recurring or non-recurring grant.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: According to the rules in existence, only those institutions are given grants which are running at a loss. This particular institution was not running at a loss.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: Question No. 740 may also be clubbed with question No. 726. They are analogous. The content is the same.

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): Question No. 740 is concerned with food production.

Mr. Speaker: Both of them can go together. If there is a large production, there is no need for import.

Import of Foodgrains

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*726. { **Shri Bishwanath Roy:**
Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:
Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:
Shri N. R. Munisamy:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present reserve stock position of foodgrains with the Central Government;

(b) the amount of foodgrains planned to be imported during the first two years of the Second Five Year Plan;

(c) whether Government have prepared any revised programme for import of foodgrains after taking into consideration the present food shortage in the country, the failure of crops as a result of drought in several States and the estimated autumn foodgrain production throughout the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the additional quantities of foodgrains that would be needed?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) 7.8 lakh tons.

(b) During the two years 1956-57 and 1957-58 about 5.9 million tons of foodgrains are expected to be imported.

(c) and (d). A revised programme of imports is under preparation. I may also add that the stock that I have mentioned is the reserve lying with the Central Government. With the State Governments, there is a reserve of about 250,000 tons, so that the total reserves will be a little over a million tons.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: May I know whether any special quota out of the imported grain has been allotted to the deficit areas especially in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh and North Bihar?