

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: The Coconut Development Board has got some scheme to give technical assistance for those who are coming forward to start some industries.

But, this Coconut Development Board, as has already been pointed out, is totally toothless; it is powerless; it can do nothing. That is the way in which it is functioning. There is no farmer in that Board; in that Board, there is no person who has invested in coconut. The Chairman, as she has already pointed out,

MR. SPEAKER: The time will be over and you will get no reply.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Would the hon. Minister throw some light on this and give some favourable answer?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: The question is very well put and I fully side with him.

Assistance will be provided; that is what we are trying to do through Agricultural Consortium. That is what it is for.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Supplies to Fair Price Shops

*24. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM:
Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat and other eatable commodities do not reach the Fair

Price Shops in time from godowns of the Food Corporation of India in various States despite depositing money;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of complaints received by the Union Government in this regard in 1994 till date; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to avoid such harassment being faced by the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d): FCI supplies wheat, rice and sugar to States/Union Territories and their nominees as per the monthly allocations made by the Central Government. There is no delay on the part of FCI in releasing of stocks from its depots to State Governments/Union Territories and their nominees after they have deposited the value of grains/sugar. The internal distribution of foodgrains upto the Fair Price Shops is the responsibility of the respective State Governments/Union Territory Governments.

Central Government have not received any complaints from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations regarding delayed delivery/issue of Rice, Wheat and Sugar (where FCI is responsible for delivery of sugar to States). The operational responsibility for implementing the PDS, rests with the State Government/Union Territory Administration.

Natural Calamities

*26. SHRI LALL BABU RAI:
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR
PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to identify the areas where natural calamities like cyclones, floods, heavy rains and droughts have become a regular phenomenon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimate loss of like, crops and livestock as a result of these calamities during the current year so far, State-wise;

(d) the Central assistance sought by each State and Union Territory and the amount actually released;

(e) the States and Union Territories visited by the Central team(s) in this regard;

(f) the follow up action taken thereon; and

(g) the details of the existing Centrally sponsored schemes to meet natural calamities?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) to (g). On the basis of studies and surveys conducted, 13 coastal districts in 4 States have been identified as cyclone prone; 627 blocks in 96 districts of 13 States as drought prone; and an area of 40.00 million ha. in 21 States and 1 Union Territory as flood prone.

2. On the basis of preliminary reports received from the State Governments, hailstorms, heavy rains and floods have so far claimed 598 human lives, 24,000 animals and affected a crop area of 5.82 lakh ha. during the current year.

3. Under the existing scheme of financing relief expenditure, the State

Governments undertake relief measures using the annual allocations of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), which is shared by the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 3:1. The Central share of CRF is released in 4 equal quarterly instalments. The first and second instalments for the current year have been released to all State Governments. In response to a request from the Government of Gujarat, the second and third instalments of CRF amounting to Rs. 31.87 crores were released in advance on 13.06.1994. The fourth instalment has also been recommended for release. In response to a request from Government of Karnataka, for assistance of Rs. 25.00 crores for flood relief measures, the third instalment of CRF amounting to Rs. 5.0625 crores has been released on 20.07.1994. Release of the third instalment of CRF amounting to Rs. 3.375 crores, Rs. 5.8125 crores and Rs. 6.9375 crores have been recommended to Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh respectively on the request of these State Governments.

4. Central Teams have not visited any State during the year. However, Union Ministers have visited the flood affected States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

5. The Centrally sponsored schemes being implemented to reduce the adverse impact of natural calamities include Drought Prone Areas Programme, Desert Development Programme, flood forecasting and warning network, cyclone detection radar and disaster warning systems. The Central Sector Schemes of Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects, Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas

and Wasteland Development Programmes also help to mitigate the adverse impacts of droughts and floods.

[English]

Spurious Seeds and Pesticides

*27. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether spurious seeds and pesticides under certification of MARKFED are being marketed to farmers through co-operatives in several States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a Central machinery to control the sale of sub-standard agricultural inputs to the farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b). Seeds and Pesticides are not subjected to certification by MARKFED. The State of Karnataka has reported cases of six samples of Malathion 5% D.P. being marketed by MARKFED to be mis-branded. In all cases, prosecution proceedings have been initiated.

(c) to (e). The Central machinery is already there in the form of Central Seed Committee and Central Seed Certification Board for the purpose of protecting and regulating the quality of seeds; likewise Central Pesticide Laboratory at Faridabad with inspecting staff to aid and assist the

State machinery in food-proof testing of the quality and also booking the culprits who resort to adulteration and prosecuting them as per legal provisions; Fertiliser Quality Control Laboratory with its inspecting staff to aid and assist the State machinery in protecting and regulating the quality of fertilisers as per standards laid down and for Machinery BIS and Central Regional Farm Machinery and Trading and Testing Institute at Budhi are the agencies for ensuring the quality for bigger machinery like Tractors, Thrashers, etc. and the State level Technical Committee is there to ensure the quality of the smaller machinery and in case of any doubt, they take the help of the Central Institute at Budni. There are various Legislative provisions having been enacted to ensure quality of agricultural inputs.

Production of Foodgrains

*28. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI BOLLA BULLIRAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of growth in the production of foodgrains is expected to rise during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof as compared to last year;

(c) the estimated production target of foodgrains fixed for 1994-95 and expected to be achieved at the end of the year, foodgrain-wise; and

(d) the steps taken for the effective storage of excess production of foodgrains?