

major consuming regions and transportation bottlenecks; and

(d) if so, apart from tackling them, the precautions that have been taken to see that the wheat procurement for Central Pool is not affected due to lack of necessary storage capacity by the Food Corporation of India?

The Minister of Food (Shri Ajit Singh) : (a) and (b) The procurement of wheat for Central Pool as on 8.5.1995 was 68.33 lakh tonnes as against 79.37 lakh tonnes on the same date during the 1994-95 Rabi Marketing Season. Due to unseasonal rains in Punjab and Haryana during early April, 1995 and delayed harvesting, the arrival of wheat in the market was slightly lower than the preceding year. Subsequently, the arrival as also the procurement of wheat in the mandis picked up; and the quantity of wheat procured as on 26.5.95 stood at 111.8 lakh tonnes as against 113.2 lakh tonnes procured on the same date in preceding year. The current trend indicates that the procurement of wheat is proceeding on expected lines.

(c) and (d) Bulk of wheat procurement takes place in Punjab; Haryana and U.P. Releases to different States/UTs from the Central Pool take place round the year. Movement of foodgrains from North India is organised with the help of the Railways. Operational problems of movement, unloading and release of wagons are monitored by the Food Corporation of India on a continuous basis.

Important steps taken to ensure smooth procurement and movement operations include :

- (i) hiring of storage space from private parties;
- (ii) expediting the completion of construction of godowns;
- (iii) enhancing CAP capacity;
- (iv) coordinated movement of grains from procurement areas to the consuming areas; and
- (v) open sale of wheat and rice.

Procurement of wheat has not been allowed to suffer due to storage problems.

IMBALANCED USE OF FERTILIZERS

*777 **Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu :** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have convened a conference of State Agriculture Ministers to discuss the current imbalance in use of different Chemical Fertilizers;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of recommendations made therein; and
- (d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

The Minister of Agriculture (Shri Balram Jakhar) :

(a) to (d) Agriculture Minister held a meeting with the State Agriculture Ministers on 31.8.1994 to discuss the guidelines for implementation of the scheme for concessions on sale of decontrolled fertilizers. In this meeting there was no specific discussion on imbalanced use of fertilizers. However, the balanced use of fertilizers is promoted through the following Central Govt. schemes :

- (i) The scheme for Concessions on the sale of Phosphatic and Potassic Fertilizers initiated after their decontrol during 1992-93 has been extended for the current year.
- (ii) A scheme on balanced and integrated use of Fertilizers is being operated since 1991-92, under which integrated use of nutrients is promoted.
- (iii) National Project on Development of Fertiliser use in Low Consumption and rainfed areas has been started since 1994-95, under which assistance is given to farmers for green manure seeds and through demonstration on integrated nutrient management.
- (iv) The National Project on Development and Use of Bio-fertilizers, which has been in operation since 1983-84, promotes production, distribution & use of bio-fertilizers.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR SPORTS PERSONS

*778. **Shri S. M. Laljan Basha :** Will the Minister of Human Resource Development be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any proposal to introduce scheme of scholarships for sports persons in colleges;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Human Resource Development (Shri Madhavrao Scindia) : (a) There already exists a Scheme of Grant of Scholarship to sportspersons in Colleges / Universities.

(b) Under this Scheme, 300 fresh scholarships are awarded every year to University/College students proficient in sports. The value of the scholarship is Rs. 6000/- per annum.

- (c) Does not arise.

DROUGHT

*779. **Shri Mohan Rawale :**
Shri Manoranjan Bhakta :

Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state :

- (a) whether severe drought situation has affected some parts of the country during 1994;