

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 Fertilisers initiated after their decontrol during 1992-93 has been extended for the current year.
- (ii) A scheme on balanced and integrated use of Fertilisers 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-fertilisers, which has been in operation since 1983-84, promotes production, distribution & use of bio-fertilisers.

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;

(b) if so, the names of districts in each state which have been more affected,

(c) the extent of damage caused by the drought situation, State-wise,

(d) the details of financial as well as other kind of assistance provided by the Government to the affected States particularly to Maharashtra during 1994,

(e) whether the Government have identified the areas where occurrence of floods and droughts have become a regular phenomenon,

(f) if so, the names of such areas, separately, and

(g) the details of the existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes to meet such situations?

The Minister of Agriculture (Shri Balam Jakhari) :

(a) to (g) According to information received from the State Governments, parts of 44 districts in the country were affected by drought during the agricultural year 1994-95. 21.24 lakh hectares of cropped area in 14 districts in Andhra Pradesh, 12 tehsils of 6 districts in Madhya Pradesh and 6184 villages of 21 districts in Maharashtra were affected and crops valued at Rs 82.86 crores in 3 districts of Tripura were lost due to drought. The names of the districts affected are given in statement attached. Considering the limited area/crops affected the drought cannot be called severe.

- 2 Under the existing scheme of financing relief expenditure the State Governments are required to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of all natural calamities utilising the corpus of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). Government of India had released an amount of Rs 49.21 crores to Andhra Pradesh, Rs 27.75 crores to Madhya Pradesh and Rs 1.69 crores to Tripura as Central share of CRF during 1994-95. In the case of Maharashtra the entire Central share of CRF for the year 1994-95, amounting to Rs 33.00 crores was released in advance during 1993-94.
- 3 627 blocks in 96 districts in 13 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have been identified as drought prone in the country. 131 blocks in 21 districts of 5 States namely Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Rajasthan have been identified as desert prone.
- 4 According to the report of Rashtriya Barh Ayog of 1980, the area liable to floods in the country is about 40.00 million hectares out of which 34.00 million hectares are expected to

be protected in the States / Union Territories of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Delhi and Pondicherry.

Drought Prone Areas Programmes (DPAP) and Desert Development Programmes (DDP) are being implemented with the objectives of integrated development of drought/desert prone areas by planning on watershed basis for conservation, development and harnessing of land, water and other natural resources. Flood Control Programmes are being undertaken to modify the floods. Control Programmes are being undertaken to modify the floods through specific structural measures such as reservoirs, embankments, channel improvement, town protection and river training.

STATEMENT

List of Districts Affected by Drought During 1994-95

ANDHRA PRADESH

- 1 Ananthapur
- 2 Cuddapah
- 3 Kurnool
- 4 Mahabubnagar
- 5 Rangareddy
- 6 Nalgonda
- 7 Prakasam
- 8 Nellore
- 9 Guntur
- 10 Vizianagaram
- 11 Medak
- 12 Nizamabad
- 13 Karimnagar
- 14 Hyderabad (Urban)

MADHYA PRADESH

- 1 Rajgarh
- 2 Tikamgarh
- 3 Balaghat

4. Knandwa
5. Durg
6. Raipur

MAHARASHTRA

1. Thane
2. Pune
3. Sangli
4. Satara
5. Nashik
6. Dhule
7. Ahmednagar
8. Aurangabad
9. Nanded
10. Beed
11. Osmanabad
12. Latur
13. Nagpur
14. Wardha
15. Bhandara
16. Chandrapur
17. Ghadchiroli
18. Amravati
19. Akola
20. Yeotmal
21. Buldana

TRIPURA

1. West Tripura
2. North Tripura
3. South Tripur

commodities are being supplied to the consumers through the Public Distribution System;

(b) whether complaints have been received from various States in this regard;

(c) whether three-tier system has been introduced to remove the grievances of the consumers in the Country;

(d) if so, the details of these grievances brought forward during the last two years, and

(e) the outcome thereof?

The Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (Shri Buta Singh) : (a) to (e) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been instructed to procure, store and supply foodgrains free from infestation and conforming to standards laid down in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) to State Governments and UT Administrations for the Public Distribution System. Opportunity is given to the State Governments or their nominees to inspect the foodgrains in the godowns of the FCI before taking delivery of the same. State Government/UT Administrations have the right to reject the stocks not conforming to the prescribed standards. Samples are drawn at the time of the delivery and given to the State/UT agencies for display at the places where the grains are distributed. Operational responsibility for implementing the PDS rests with the State Government/UT Administrations which include distribution of quality foodgrains through the Fair Price Shops within their jurisdiction. They have been delegated powers under the Essential Commodities Act to take action against persons violating the provisions of the Act and control orders made thereunder.

Central Government has not received any major complaint from State Government/UT Administrations regarding poor quality foodgrains and other PDS items being distributed through the PDS. However, in a vast operation such as the PDS where nearly 13 million tonnes of foodgrains were distributed through a network of more than 4 lakh fair price shops throughout the country, some shortcomings here and there cannot be ruled out altogether.

There have been complaints from consumers regarding poor quality of foodgrains being distributed through PDS. For effective and quick redressal, such grievances have to be looked into by the district authorities in the State/UTs. Details of FPS level complaint are not maintained by the Central Government.

Central Government had advised State Government to set up fair price shop level vigilance committees comprising representatives of women voluntary organisations, persons belonging to SC/ST communities and local consumers to ensure people's participation in the supervision of the PDS. Such vigilance committees are reported to have been set up by most State Government. Many State Government have also set up such vigilance committees at the District and State levels also.

[Translation]

SUPPLY OF (SUBSTANDARD FOODGRAINS UNDER PDS)

*780. **Shri Rajendra Kumar Sharma :** Will the Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that substandard food