

Kali-II Irrigation Scheme

215. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have handed over the equivalent non-forest land to the State Forest Department of Gujarat for making available the equivalent forest land for Kali-II Irrigation Scheme in Panchmahal District;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in issuing orders for the release of the forest land so far; and

(c) the date by which the orders are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The State Government has reported that equivalent non-forest land has been transferred to the Forest Department for compensatory afforestation.

(b) and (c) The matter is under process and final decision is likely to be taken very soon.

Agriculture Central University, Manipur

216. SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount provided for the construction of the building of the Agricultural Central University in Manipur;

(b) the amount spent on construction of the building so far;

(c) whether the vacancies lying vacant in all the categories have been filled up; if not, when and how they are going to be filled up; and

(d) the in-take capacity of the University, and the ratio of distribution of the students to the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN) : (a) and (b) Out of total provision of Rs. 15 crore for civil works during VIIIth plan period a sum-of Rs. 33.16 lakhs has been spent on construction work.

(c) The posts are filled by direct rectt. and promotion as per provision in the CAU Act. Vacancies in respect of College for which Ordinance has been issued have been notified for rectt. action.

(d) Intake capacity of the two colleges is detailed below :

States/Agency	College of Agri. Manipur	College of vet. Sci. and A.H., Mizoram
1	2	3
1. Arunachal Pradesh	06	03
2. Manipur	10	04

	1	2	3
3. Meghalaya		08	03
4. Mizoram		03	03
5. Sikkim		03	02
6. Tripura		10	04
7. ICAR/VCI		-	03
		40 (Fourty)	22 (Twenty two)

[Translation]

Crop Insurance Scheme

217. SHRI KESHRI LAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the Districts where Crop Insurance Scheme was started during 1994-95 in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of Districts where this scheme has not yet been started in the State;

(c) the percentage of farmers and land of the State benefited by this Scheme; and

(d) the time by which this Scheme is likely to be started in rest of the Districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN) : (a) The State of Uttar Pradesh has not participated in the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) during 1994-95.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Economic cost of Foodgrains

218. SHRI BRISHIN PATEL :
SHRI JANMEET SINGH BRAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the economic cost of Wheat and Rice being procured by the Food Corporation of India has been constantly increasing for the last three years;

(b) if so, the economic cost of Wheat and Rice during the year 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 separately;

(c) whether the lifting of Wheat and Rice for Public Distribution System from the godowns of Food Corporation of India has also decreased during the period; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the quantity of Wheat and Rice lifted during the above mentioned period, separately?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The economic cost of Wheat and Rice, procured by Food Corporation of India, in the last three years is as under :

(Rs./Quintal)

Year	Wheat	Rice
1992-93	504.10	585.27
1993-94	532.03	665.10
1994-95	551.17	694.71

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In the recent past, the off-take of foodgrains under Public Distribution System/Revamped PDS has registered a downward trend, mainly due to the easy availability of foodgrains in the open market. The quantities lifted during the period 1992-93 to 1994-95 are as under :

(Qty. in lakh Tonnes)

Year	Wheat	Rice
1992-93	77.24	94.89
1993-94	59.69	89.56
1994-95	49.83	80.13

[English]

Shortage of Pulses

219. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- whether there is an acute shortage of Pulses in the country leading to abnormal rise in their prices;
- if so, the extent of shortage in various varieties of Pulses;
- the extent of price rise during the last one year;
- the reasons for this shortage; and
- the corrective steps taken proposed to be taken by the Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN) : (a) The domestic production of pulses is somewhat less than its demand. The prices are governed by demand and supply forces.

(b) Assessment of variety-wise requirements is not monitored. However, Planning Commission has fixed a production target for pulses for the year 1996-97 at 17.00 million tonnes. Looking to present trend of production of 14.46 million tonnes, the approximate shortage are in the range of 2-3 million tonnes.

(c) The overall price of pulses taken together was less by one per cent than the prices during the same period last year (12.11.94 Vs 11.11.95). However, there has been an increase in the price index of Arhar by 43.1% Moong 13%, Lentil 23.5% and Urd 15.2%. The price index of gram was 43.4% lower than last year.

(d) Pulses are highly risky crops and, therefore, farmers prefer to grow more assured and remunerative crops and pay little attention for pulses. About 90 per cent area of pulses is rainfed, thus, their production fluctuate with the amount of rainfall and its distribution.

(e) The Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is under implementation in 25 States and UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Under the Project, assistance is provided to the farmers on production and distribution of seeds, Rhizobial cultures, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements etc. Further, Production technologies are being disseminated through Frontline Demonstrations by ICAR and Block Demonstrations by State Departments of Agriculture.

[Translation]

Animal Husbandry

220. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- whether the Government had received any complaint regarding implementation of Animal Husbandry Programme in Bihar;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Hon'ble Shri Kadia Munda, MP, Shri Lalit Unrao, MP and Shri Ram Tahal Choudhary, MP have endorsed a letter of Shri Ram Das Rai, ex-MLA Bihar in which allegations have been made that the officers of the State Department of Animal Husbandry have mismanaged/misappropriated Rs. 46.50 crores allocated to the Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Bihar by the Government of India during the period 1990 to March, 1992. These funds are alleged to be allocated for the Tribal Development Agency Programme, Special Component Plan, District Rural Development Agency, Social Welfare Department and Social Organisations for the welfare of the tribal and Santhali people of the Chota Nagpur region of Bihar, through free distribution of pigs, buffaloes, Cows/calves, sheep, goats, poultry, medicines and feed and fodder and providing the cost of maintenance of these animals to the beneficiaries. Instances of the irregularities in the postings, transfers, appointments and extension in the services of the alleged corrupt officials have also been indicated in the letter.

(c) As the issues raised in the letter fall within the purview of the State Government of Bihar/State Department of Animal Husbandry and the Union Ministry of Agriculture is not directly concerned with the issues, these complaints were referred to the Government of Bihar for proper investigation and immediate action.