

ships on order will soon be exceeded. Orders are also proposed to be placed for more ships as an advance action against the Fifth Plan target.

Assistance to States for Irrigation Projects in Drought Affected Areas

1822. SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have given any additional assistance to the State Governments to initiate Irrigation Projects in the drought affected areas during the year 1972-73; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER IN STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) and (b). Under the Drought Relief Programme, a large number of relief works, including minor irrigation, have been undertaken in drought-affected areas. Similar programmes are under implementation in 54 selected districts in the country under the Drought Prone Areas Programme, major emphasis being on the development of minor irrigation sources. The total Central grant for these districts for the year 1972-73 is approximately Rs. 15 crores. Also, Emergency Agricultural Production Programme has been launched to meet the situation created by drought during the current year. Under this programme, additional loan assistance of the order of Rs. 152.40 crores has been administratively approved to State Governments for implementing quick-maturing minor irrigation projects which could benefit the rabi and summer crops this year. The projects undertaken by State Governments include energisation of the existing tubewells, pump sets, lift irrigation projects over rivers, tanks, perennial streams, etc., construction

of deep as well as shallow tubewells, besides other types of minor irrigation works capable of yielding immediate benefits.

Import of Fertilizer

1823. SHRI H. M. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state how much of Fertiliser is being imported as today and the Foreign Exchange allocated thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASHEB P. SHINDE): The quantities of fertilisers in terms of nutrients which will be imported during 1973-74 as per contracts placed till 18th February, 1973 and their value in terms of foreign exchange are as follows:—

Quantity	Estimated C&F Value
N 6.13 lakh tonnes	} U.S. \$179.09 million
P 1.88 lakh tonnes	
K 2.88 lakh tonnes	

Progress of fertiliser promotional plan

1824. SHRI P. GANGADEB:
SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are confident that a scheme of Rs. 2.19 crores fertiliser promotional Year Plan is being carried out successfully;

(b) if so, how many Districts out of 70 Districts selected for the purpose have been covered under the programme; and

(c) when all the Districts will be covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) Yes.

(b) and (c). For 1972-73 sanction has been issued for implementation of fertilizer Promotion Programme in 25 Districts and the remaining 45 Districts will be covered in 1973-74.

Working Group on Cooperatives

1825. SHRI ROBIN KAKOTI:

SHRI K. MALLANNA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Working Group on Co-operatives has made recommendations that Co-operatives should be made viable units and it should be an important instrument for implementing the national policy on growth with social justice in the Fifth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the main points of its recommendations to achieve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The basic approach to cooperative development programmes in the Fifth Plan, in order to achieve the national policy on growth with social justice and other main points as recommended by the Working Group on Co-operation, are as follows:—

- (1) Special policies & programmes designed to reduce regional disparities;
- (2) Special attention to the specific needs and problems of small farmers, marginal farmers and other weaker sections, as also of economically backward areas and tribal areas;
- (3) A pivotal role for consumer cooperatives in price and distribution policies;
- (4) Properly equipping the national level cooperative federations, to enable them to dis-

charge the greater responsibilities devolving on them, in view of the growing diversification and complexity of activities of different types of cooperatives;

- (5) Establishment of cadres of professionally competent managerial and accounting personnel, at appropriate levels, in different sectors of the cooperative movement.

देवनागरी लिपि का विस्तार

1826. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या शिक्षा, समाज कल्याण और संस्कृति मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार देवनागरी लिपि के विस्तार के प्रश्न पर गम्भीरता से विचार कर रही है ;

(ख) क्या हाल ही में वधों में भाषा एवं लिपि के उपयोग के सम्बन्ध में सरकारी एवं गैर सरकारी संस्थानों के प्रतिनिधियों का कोई सम्मेलन हुआ है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार को उसकी रिपोर्ट मिला गई है और यदि हां, तो उसकी मुख्य बातें क्या हैं ?

शिक्षा और समाज कल्याण मंत्रालय तथा संस्कृति विभाग में उपमन्त्री (श्री डी० पी० यादव) : (क) जी हां। इस मंत्रालय ने देवनागरी लिपि के प्रसार और उसे लोकप्रिय बनाने के लिए कदम उठा लिए हैं। क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं की उन विशिष्ट ध्वनियों को प्रतिरूपित करने के लिए, जिसके लिए देवनागरी में कोई संकेत नहीं हैं, विशिष्ट संकेतों और भेदकों को लागू करके, उसे संशोधित