

Revision of Fifth Five Year Plan for Farmers

1816. SHRI DHARMAVIR VASISTH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which Fifth Five Year Plan has been revised to secure fair price to farmers and to secure minimum needs of farmers in respect of improved seeds, implements, fertilizers and pesticides;

(b) whether the Government are working on a co-related approach between agricultural prices and agricultural inputs; and

(c) if so, the details worked out, if any?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a). It is the policy of the Government to assure remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce. The Government has already raised the procurement price of wheat from Rs. 105 per quintal in the marketing year 1976-77 to Rs. 110 per quintal in the current 1977-78 marketing year. Vigorous efforts are also being made to meet the requirements of the farmers for the various inputs through a number of programmes undertaken by the Government of augmenting their supply as well as improving the distribution arrangements.

(b) and (c). Procurement prices for foodgrains and minimum support prices for important agricultural commodities are being fixed by the Government on the advice of the Agricultural Prices Commission. In making its recommendations, on the level of prices, the Commission takes into account, among other things, the changes in prices of agricultural inputs and their likely impact on the cost of production of crops.

Massive Erosion of Western Banks of River Bhagirathi

1817. SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Western Banks of river Bhagirathi from Farakka, Dhuliyat, Aurangabad, Nimtita downwards are undergoing massive erosion at alarming rate every year; and

(b) if so, what steps have been or are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). The problem of erosion on the right bank of Bhagirathi has been in existence since long. The State Government of West Bengal have been taking measures for protection against erosion in the vulnerable reaches since 1969-70 when the erosion became severe. The measures taken include construction of eighty submersible boulder spurs at a total cost of about Rs. 1.79 crores. The State Technical Committee has approved a scheme costing Rs. 43.3 lakhs for interim measures at Dhulian and some works against this scheme have since been taken up. The State Government have also prepared a project report to deal with the problem in the entire affected reach along the right bank of Bhagirathi for finalisation of which collection of detailed data, investigations and hydraulic model studies are being done.

D.D.A. Loni Road Residential Scheme

1818. SHRI SHEO SAMPAT: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of residential plots allotted by DDA in the Loni Road Residential Scheme particularly in