

value items inhibits any such indiscriminate or excessive use.

Since crop harvesting results in removal of nutrients from the soil, fertiliser is an essential input for sustaining crop production. However, the average fertiliser consumption in our country is considerably low at present. With this low level of fertiliser consumption, the question of harming the soil does not arise. On the contrary there is need to use more quantities of fertiliser for achieving the desired targets of agricultural production.

(b) The farmers are already being educated about the correct and efficient utilisation of fertilisers as well as of the need for a proper crop rotation particularly in dry areas of the country through a number of extension programmes.

Duck Farming for Rural Economy

2113. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :
SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report appearing in the Patriot dated 5 November, 1985 wherein it has been stated that duck farming could be crucial for India's Rural Economy and is cheaper than broiler farming; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) ; (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) The Government is aware of the importance and potential of duck farming for egg and meat production in rural economy.

(ii) Duck farming for production and sale of table eggs is popular in rural areas of some

of the coastal and north eastern States. However, duck farming for production of meat due to limited market demand is not as popular as broiler chicken farming.

Modernisation of Single Huller Subsidy Mills in West Bengal

2114. SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether provisions were made under the centrally sponsored Huller Subsidy Scheme for modernisation of the single Huller husking mills in West Bengal during the Sixth Plan period;

(b) if so, the details of such provisions and actual utilisation during 1984-85;

(c) the physical targets and the actual achievements;

(d) the reasons for shortfall; if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) During the year 1984-85, a grant of Rs. 2.50 lakhs has been released to the State Government in March '85 for organising 10 seminars and setting up of 15 Demonstration Units. The State Government is taking action to complete the requisite preliminary formalities like selection of locations for seminars, beneficiaries for demonstration units, manufacturers for supply of machinery etc.

Strengthening of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies in West Bengal

2115. SHRI BHOLANATH SEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) and Indian Farmers Fertilisers Co-operative Ltd. (IFFCO) have taken steps for strengthening Primary Agricultural Credit Societies in West Bengal;