

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) impact of steps taken and the progress made in the matter; and

(d) future programmes of NCDC and IFFCO for West Bengal ?

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

(b) and (c) Under the NCDC-IFFCO sponsored Scheme for the establishment of Cooperative Farmers Service Centres, selected primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) are provided with Rs. 30,000 per society by NCDC as margin money loan for raising credit for procurement, stocking and distribution of agricultural inputs and Rs. 12,000 per society by IFFCO towards purchase of agricultural equipment, furniture, fixture etc. So far, 258 PACS have already been taken up for overall development and strengthening under this scheme and an amount of Rs. 74.05 lakhs has been provided to these societies as margin loan and Rs. 30.96 lakhs as subsidy. Although the scheme has been taken up only recently the overall impact of this scheme in the State is satisfactory. In addition, NCDC provides financial assistance to PACS for distribution of consumer goods in the rural areas, on project basis, under a NCDC sponsored scheme and a Central Sector scheme. Upto 1984-85, NCDC has sanctioned Rs. 160.38 lakhs in respect of 2510 PACS under the NCDC sponsored scheme and Rs. 114.45 lakhs in respect of 1878 PACS under Central Sector Scheme. Further, the NCDC had sanctioned a programme of construction of 2026 rural godowns of 2.02 lakh tonnes capacity to be created by the PACS, till 31st March, 1985. The NCDC assistance in respect of both the schemes of rural consumer and storage would enable the PACS to have the necessary infrastructure and increase their level of operations.

(b) Under the NCDC-IFFCO scheme, already 258 PACS in the State have been developed and assisted, against the target of 120 only. Further programme may be considered on the basis of studies and

surveys. Programme for 1985-86 for NCDC envisages, in addition, strengthening and providing financial assistance to 152 new projects under the rural consumer schemes, and creation of additional storage capacity of 1 lakh tonnes at the level of PACS (1000 rural godowns) in West Bengal by 1987-88 under the NCDC-III Project. There is also a proposal to take up, under the 'District Plan Approach', integrated development of PACS as multi-purpose service organisations.

Subsidy for Fertilizers

2116. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a lot of subsidy is now going in the delivery of fertilizers;

(b) if so, the total yearly subsidy that Government bears on supply of fertilizers;

(c) whether Government propose to withdraw the subsidy; and

(d) if so, how adversely the agriculturists are going to be affected ?

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

(b) The total amount of subsidy borne by the Government of India during 1984-85 was of the order of Rs. 1927.31 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(b) In view of reply at (c) above, this question does not arise.

Withdrawal of subsidy on foodgrains supplied through public distribution system

2117. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to with-