

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) to(c). Yes, Sir. The term 'black Milk' refers to the by-products (Bitumenous emulsions and Asphalt) from Petroleum Refining Industry. Belgian and American scientists have reported the possibility of using these as soil conditioners for improving the soil structure and for wind erosion control. Experiments carried out under Indian conditions have been only of preliminary nature and the results are not conclusive for practical recommendations of these compounds on a field scale.

Implementation of Special Foodgrains Production Programme in West Bengal

1306. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the crop lending target set for West Bengal under the Union Government's Special Foodgrains Production Programme during 1988-89 and the districts identified for the purpose ;

(b) whether some portion of the Sunderbans area which has a potential for rice production will also be included in this Programme ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) The crop lending amount for seven districts covered under special Foodgrains Production Programme in West Bengal has been estimated at Rs. 85 crores for 1988-89. The programme is being implemented in the districts of (1) Nadia (2) Hooghly (3) Burdwan (4) Birbhum (5) 24-Parganas (6) Midnapur (7) West Dinajpur.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Change in Fuel Technology for Steel Plants

1307. SHRI MOTILAL HANSDA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a change in fuel technology for the steel plants ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether these changes are as equal to the foreign technologies ; and

(d) the extent to which these changes will prove beneficial to national economy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The fuel technology for steel plants is under review with regard to economics of using imported coal in place of indigenous coal and natural gas due to its improved availability in different parts of the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The use of larger percentage of natural gas and or imported coal is expected to improve the productivity of the plants and quality of the steel products. This will, therefore, be beneficial to national economy.

Funds to States Under Rural Development Programmes

1308. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds earmarked for the major rural development programmes during the Seventh Plan, sector-wise;

(b) the amount allocated to different States so far, State-wise ; and

(c) the amount spent under different schemes, State-wise ?