

State		Number of farmers benefits
6. Himachal Pradesh	...	N.R.
7. Jammu & Kashmir	...	N.R.
8. Karnataka	...	287
9. Kerala	...	35,371
10. Madhya Pradesh	...	49,102
11. Maharashtra	...	@
12. Manipur	...	NIL
13. Meghalaya	...	NIL
14. Nagaland	...	N.R.
15. Orissa	...	14,390
16. Punjab	...	8,100
17. Rajasthan	...	12,677
18. Sikkim	...	N.R.
19. Tamil Nadu	...	82,361
20. Tripura	...	1,326
21. Uttar Pradesh	...	61,689
22. West Bengal	...	12,000
23. UTs.	...	1,322
	Total	3,69,897

@ Minor irrigations funds being utilised for integrated watershed development works to recharge the groundwater structure.

N.R. = Not reported.

[English]

**Reduction in cost of Fertilizers**

4045. SHRI JAGANNATH PATT-  
NAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to reduce the costs of Fertilizers substantially in order to provide a fillip to agricultural exports ; and

(b) whether fertilizer is one of the most important input in agriculture and if so, in order to achieve any breakthrough in agricultural export, what steps

Government propose to take to ensure that the cultivator gets this input at reasonable prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) There is no proposal, at present, to alter the farmer-prices of fertilisers.

(b) Fertiliser is an important input for increasing the agricultural production. In spite of rise in cost of production of fertiliser, its selling prices have not been revised since June, 1983, and this revision was also a reduction in selling price by 7½%.