

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA):** (a) and (b). There is no proposal at present to reduce the prices of chemical fertilisers. However, the prices of fertilisers are reviewed from time to time and as and when any reduction is called for, it is done.

**Soft Wood for Match Industry**

3827. **SHRI KUMARI ANANTHAN:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are contemplating any proposal to make available soft wood for the use of hand-made match industries at cheaper rates;

(b) the steps taken to procure more soft wood for Tamil Nadu State for this purpose; and

(c) the outlines of the proposal?

**The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA):** (a) to (c). The requisite information is being collected from the concerned organisations and will be laid on the table of the Sabha in due course.

**Instructions to States to hold Elections to Local Bodies**

3828. **DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have issued any instruction to States to hold elections to local bodies, municipal committees and Panchayats where these are due; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to direct these State Governments for the same so as to ensure democratic functioning at all levels?

**THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT):** (a) and (b). No. Sir. Local Self Government being a State subject, the States have to arrange for elections to local bodies, Municipal Committees and Panchayats, where these are due.

**World Bank Assisted Drought Prone Areas Programme in Nagpur and Jodhpur in Rajasthan**

3829. **SHRI SATISH AGARWAL:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) achievement of the World Bank assisted Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) in Nagpur and Jodhpur districts of Rajasthan money invested by Central and State Governments in this scheme and nature of assistance received from the World Bank for these works; and

(b) whether Government are satisfied with progress of Drought Prone Areas Programme schemes in other districts of Rajasthan and how much money has been spent in advancing subsidy, loan etc. to people under the scheme and direct gains received from them and other States where Drought Prone Area Programme schemes are being run and with what achievement?

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA):** (a) Rs. 6 crores have been allocated for Drought Prone Areas Programme each in Nagpur and Jodhpur districts in Rajasthan under the Fifth Five Year Plan. The Central and the State Government's contribution would be Rs. 4.00 crores and Rs. 2.00 crores respectively for each district. During 1974-77 an expenditure of Rs. 235.23 lakhs has been incurred in Jodhpur district and Rs. 187.51 lakhs in Nagpur district.