

**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.

Credit assistance of 4.8 million dollars has been promised for the programme in these two districts by the World Bank. In addition, lump sum provision of 14.5 million dollars has been made available for all the six districts including these two covered under the DPAP project to take care of price escalation and unforeseen expenditure.

(b) Government is satisfied with the progress of Drought Prone Areas Programme in other districts of Rajasthan. The expenditure incurred on capital investment and subsidy etc. in other districts of Rajasthan during 1974-77 is Rs. 15.83 crores.

The expenditure incurred under Drought Prone Areas Programme in the country during 1974-77 is Rs. 121.82 crores. During this period, soil and moisture conservation was carried out in about 4 lakh hectares and about 50,000 composite demonstrations in the farmers' fields were held. Additional irrigation potential of about one lac hectares has been created under irrigation works. Works are in progress for the creation of irrigation in another 50,000 hectares. Afforestation was carried out in about 1.68 lakh hectares. The number of milch animals distributed was over 9000. About 1000 Milk Producers' Cooperative Societies and 100 Sheep Producers' Cooperatives were formed.

#### Water Charges charged from Residents of DIZ Area.

3830. SHRI ANANT DAVE: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the Government servants residing in Sector 'D', in DIZ Area, New Delhi have been crying for more than five years that the water charges from them should be charged according to the meter readings which are already installed;

(b) if so, the reasons for charging from them water charges at flat rates which are on the high side;

(c) why Government could not make arrangements for recording water meter readings and charge according to the actual consumption; and

(d) in case it is not possible to charge the water charges according to water meter reading, whether it is proposed to remove the water meters already installed and install them somewhere else?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Water meters had been installed in the hope that the NDMC would take over direct supply, meter reading and billing to the individual occupants. However, it did not do so, and is supplying water in bulk only at one point from where internal distribution is done by the CPWD. As the supply of water is being made in bulk and payment to NDMC is being made accordingly, the cost is passed on to the individual occupants on a flat rates basis, instead of incurring expenditure on meter reading, bill preparation, etc. As only the actual cost is being recovered, the charges cannot be high, and even though these might not reflect the actual consumption by each individual, the difference on this account between one individual and another is not likely to be much.

(d) The question will have to be taken up with the New Delhi Municipal Committee afresh.

#### Cottage Industry in Schools/Colleges

3831. SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to