

Development of Small and Marginal Farmers and Landless Labourers in M.P.

4298. SHRI SURYANARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) details of the development programmes for marginal farmers, small farmers and landless labourers under the Central Programme that is to be undertaken during the year 1978-1979 in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the programme launched hitherto is running satisfactorily; and

(c) if so, his reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRA-TAP SINGH): (a) Under the Central Sector Scheme of Small Farmers Development Agency, 12 projects are being implemented in Madhya Pradesh. Generally speaking, each project has an outlay of Rs. 150.00 lakhs for the project period ending in 1978-79. The Agencies extend assistance to small/marginal farmers and agricultural labourers for various schemes of crop husbandry and subsidiary occupations in their area of operation. Assistance is given in the shape of subsidy at the rate of 25 per cent to small farmers and 33-1/3 per cent to marginal farmers and agricultural labourers on the capital cost of development against loan from institutional sources. The crop husbandry programme includes introduction of high yielding varieties, multiple cropping, land development, soil conservation, minor irrigation, horticulture, etc., and those of subsidiary occupations include dairy, poultry, piggery, sheep and goat rearing. Each agency is expected to extend benefits to approximately 50,000 small/marginal farmers and agricultural labourers during the five year project period.

For the year 1978-79, the agencies are expected to draw up their programme and submit suitable proposals including their physical targets and the financial outlays for release of grant-in-aid by the Government of India during April, 1978.

(b) and (c). The information available indicates that the implementation of the programme is generally satisfactory in Madhya Pradesh though there are variations from project to project in regard to performance. The progress and problems of the projects are reviewed periodically by the State Government as well as the Government of India and suitable remedial measures are taken to improve the pace of implementation. It is proposed to take up intensive development in selected number of blocks during 1978-79.

Loss in Export of Wheat to Russia

4299. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wheat was exported from India to Russia on F.O.B. Basis through Russian shippers;

(b) is it also a fact that the Government of India neither contacted the Shipping Corporation of India nor the other shippers to take the cargo to Russia;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) is it also a fact that about 5,000 tonnes of rice was also exported from India to Indonesia and about 2 lakh tonnes of urea was imported from Indonesia to India through foreign shippers; and

(e) if so, why?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRA-TAP SINGH): (a) to (c). As per contract between the Food Corporation of