

Grants for Community Tube Wells in Bihar.

2146. SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHRY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Bihar Government have approached the Union Government to provide grants for installing community tubewells in that State ; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the assistance given by the Central Government to that State during the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) (a) : No, Sir. The Bihar Govt. have not approached the Union Government to provide grants for installing community tubewells in that State during the last two years.

(b). Does not arise in view of (a) above

Plan for Take-over of Flood Control Drainage and Erosion under Gandak and Kosi Projects

2147. SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHRY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bihar Government has decided to set up a high level experts team to work out a feasibility study for 'jacketting' the Ganga from Buxar downstream to Farakka ;

(b) whether the Bihar Government has approached the Central Government regarding the Gandak Control Board and reached a consensus in its recent meeting that the Centre should take over flood control, drainage and erosion side of the Gandak and the Kosi projects ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Central Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) During the 5th meeting of Ganga Flood Control Board held at New Delhi on 31.8.1978 the problem of bank erosion of river Ganga was discussed when it was decided that for preparing a comprehensive plan of anti-erosion measures for the Ganga, the Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal Governments would furnish necessary data to the Central Water & Power Research Station, Poona for carrying out model studies.

(b) No, Sir.

Effect of In-built Stability of Agriculture on Vagary of Weather

2148. SHRI A.R. BADRI NARAYAN : SHRI R.V. SWAMINATHAN : SHRI M.V. CHANDRA-SHEKHARA MURTHY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Agriculture have achieved an in-built production stability and now unfavourable weather cannot play havoc with the overall national output ;

(b) if so, how far this is true ;

(c) the factors responsible in achieving this stability ; and

(d) whether they are permanent one ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) (d). Over the years Indian Agriculture has been slowly gaining in stability. Production of rice and wheat which are the two major cereals of the country has generally been steady. For example, in spite of the severe cyclone in Andhra Pradesh in 1977, rice production in that State was higher than in the previous year. It will, however, be pre-mature to say that unfavourable weather may not affect adversely the overall national output, in case abnormal weather prevails over large parts of the country. The country is however, much less vulnerable to a great drop in food output now than in earlier years like 1966 and 1972 when considerable areas were affected by severe drought. The major reasons for improvement in the stability of production are :—

(a) The larger area under irrigation.

(b) The possibility of multiple cropping which can help to launch compensatory programmes for offsetting the loss occurring in one season; for example, West Bengal has launched a much larger *rabi-boro* production programme to compensate for the loss due to floods in *kharif* season.

(c) Increased use of inputs like fertilizers pesticide and good seed.

(d) Possibility of introducing alternative cropping strategies and contingency plans according to weather conditions; this has become possible due to the development of short duration and quick yielding varieties in several crops.

(c) Growing knowledge of water-harvesting and crop life saving irrigation techniques and the introduction of improved farming practices under the DPAP and other programmes.

Barring wide-spread and unprecedented weather abnormalities, particularly drought, it is likely that the country will continue to gain in stability of production. The two major causes of instability of production have been unfavourable weather and the incidence of pests and diseases. The vastly expanded irrigation programmes and the intensive research and developmental efforts now being undertaken in rainfed areas should help to minimise the adverse impact of aberrant weather on food output. Suitable cropping strategies are also being developed for chronically flood-prone areas, in order to make the flood-free season as the main agricultural season. National pests surveillance and control measures are also being strengthened. Seed reserves will be built up so as to enable the implementation of contingency plans during unfavourable weather. Agro-meteorological research is also being strengthened. Above all, through a remunerative pricing policy, farmers have been given incentives for producing foodgrains, so as to render early warning and timely advice to farmers possible. Achieving stability of production has been given as much importance in our national food security system as improving terrestrial and aquatic productivity.

Movement of Fertilisers to Centres of Consumption

2149. SHRI A.R. BADRI NARAYAN :

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRA-
SHEKARA MURTHY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India propose to move 3 to 3.5 lakh tonnes of imported fertilisers every month to different Consumers Centres;

(b) if so, when the same is likely to be started; and

(c) the total tonnes of fertilisers upto 30th September during, 1978 moved to the different places?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) and (b). The Food Corporation of India has built up a capacity to handle and move

about 3.6 lakh tonnes of imported fertilisers per month from various ports to different consuming States under normal circumstances. However, during times of flood, heavy rains, difficulties at ports and strikes etc., this capacity will go down.

(c) During the first six months of 1978-79, Food Corporation of India has moved 11.47 lakh tonnes of imported fertilisers from the ports.

अपर सकरी जलाशय योजना

2150. श्री रीतलाल प्रसाद वर्मा : क्या कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) अपर सकरी जलाशय योजना का ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ख) क्या 20,000 एकड़ कृषि भूमि और एक ग्राम ब्लाक के 80 ग्रामों में अधिकांश घाबादी वाला क्षेत्र जलमग्न हो गया था, जिससे इस योजना के कारण एक शरणार्थी समस्या उत्पन्न हो गई थी ;

(ग) क्या कई करोड़ रुपये के अन्नक उत्पादन पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ेगा जिससे लाखों श्रमिक बेरोजगार हो जायेंगे, क्योंकि अन्नक की खानों में प्रति वर्ष पानी भर जाता है ;

(घ) क्या इस जलाशय से गिरिडीह और हजारी बाग जिलों को सिंचाई के लिए जल उपलब्ध नहीं होगा और उक्त ब्यय छोटा नागपुर के विकास शीर्ष के अन्तर्गत किया जायगा; और

(ङ) क्या इस अनुपयोगी योजना को छोड़ देने से, इस योजना के अधीन सिंचाई के लिए प्रस्तावित भूमि की तुलना में तीन गुनी अधिक भूमि उपलब्ध होगी, जिसे 47 करोड़ रु० से लेकर 100 करोड़ रु० तक की मध्यम और लघु सिंचाई योजना को युक्त स्तर पर क्रियान्वित करने सिंचाई के अधीन लाया जा सकता है ?