

(d) whether some of the industrial houses which had entered the deep-sea fishing operations have failed to exploit the huge potential available on the east and west coasts; and

(e) if so, the steps which Government propose to take to set matters right?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Reports indicate that some foreign trawlers are illegally fishing in Indian Waters have been received.

(b) Foreign fishing vessels engaged in illegal fishing within our Exclusive Economic Zone are chased out and also warned to keep out of our Waters.

(c) "The Territorial Water,—Continental Shelf, exclusive Economic Zone and other Maritime Zones Act 1976", has been enacted to provide legal framework for matters relating to Exclusive Economic Zone and other Maritime Zones of India. The Coast Guard Organisation has been formed and its duties include protecting the marine resources in our Exclusive Economic Zone. Measures have also been initiated for augmentation of deep sea fishing fleet by introduction of fishing vessels by private parties, State Corporations and Cooperative Societies.

(d) No Sir. Deep sea fishing has started only recently and it will take time before the potential is optimally exploited.

(e) Question does not arise.

Shortage of Wheat Seed

3152. SHRI S. R. DAMANI;
SHRI P. K. KODIYAN;

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

(a) whether acute shortage of certified wheat seeds is likely to hit rabi sowing;

(b) the reasons for the shortage of wheat seeds;

(c) whether any attention is also being paid to the production of quality seeds; and

(d) the steps which have been taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) While there is some shortage of certified wheat seed, the shortage is not acute and steps have been taken to meet the requirement by supply of good quality grain available with the Food Corporation of India and showing satisfactory germination. The State Governments of Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh have been authorised to lift 20,000 quintals, 50,000 quintals and 5,00,000 quintals respectively from the godowns of the Food Corporation.

(b) The reasons for shortage are as follows:

(i) Sharp increase in the demand for wheat seed due to the unprecedented floods in wheat-growing States which damaged the seeds stocked by farmers.

(ii) Large-scale rejection of seed crop due to heavy incidence of Karnal Bunt in the producing States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

(iii) Heavy damage to the seed in rabi 1978 on the threshing floor itself because of untimely rain in April/May 1978.

(c) Yes, Sir. Nine State Seed Corporations have been set up in the country for the production of quality seeds. The seed produced in the Corporations is certified by the State Seed Certification Agencies to ensure the quality of seed. Besides, the National Seeds Corporation is also distributing certified seeds which are certified by the

State Seed Certification Agencies. In addition, there is a system of internal quality control checks by National Seeds Corporation.

(d) In order to meet the situation created by natural calamities like floods, droughts, etc. which create a sudden spurt in the demand for seeds, a Reserve Stock Scheme for foundation and certified seeds has been chalked out at a cost of Rs. 258 lakhs. Under this scheme, 3,000 quintals of foundation seed and 37,200 quintals of certified seeds will be kept in reserve.

Measures to restore rural economy of Flood affected Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal

3153. SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the recent devastating floods have caused immense hardship and damages of paddies and grains in West Bengal or not;

(b) whether Government are taking effective action to supply seeds of high breed paddy and wheat and also potato seeds to Himachal Pradesh or to re-energize the collapsed rural economy; and

(c) if not, what alternative measures have been adopted by the Government to re-establish the rural economy of West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) Thirteen out of Seventeen agricultural districts of West Bengal have been affected covering a cropped area of about 13.28 lakh hectares. The loss to 'Aman' paddy, which covers about 75 per cent of the total area under paddy, was estimated to be about 15-18 lakh tonnes. According to the latest report received from the State Government 152.55 lakh people have been affected and 1031 human lives lost in the floods.

(b) and (c). Himachal Pradesh did not place any demand for paddy seeds or potato seeds. Their entire requirement of wheat seeds is being met from supplies within the State.

Meetings were held with the officers of West Bengal to consider the various proposals for supply of agricultural inputs and intensification of Rabi operations to re-energize the rural economy of West Bengal. As a follow up measure National Seeds Corporation has supplied 15,000 quintals of paddy seeds to West Bengal. As regards wheat seeds, West Bengal Government have been advised to utilise the good quality wheat seed which was available with the F.C.I. as is being done in case of U.P. and Bihar. The Deptt. of Food has directed the F.C.I. to make available such seeds to West Bengal. Further the West Bengal Agro-Industries Corporation has also procured more than 5,000 quintals of certified wheat seeds from private producers of Delhi and Haryana. The National Seeds Corporation has supplied 10,000 quintals of wheat seeds to their dealers and the figure is likely to go up to 10,500 quintals. The seed was, truthfully labelled after laboratory tests.

Apart from making arrangements for supply of high-yielding varieties of seeds of paddy and wheat, Government of India has sanctioned short-term loan of Rs. 15.00 crores for Rabi operations. The State Government has drawn up an ambitious Rabi production programme over an area of about 60 lakh acres as against 40 lakh acres last year to recoup part of the loss to kharif crops.

One lakh M.T. of foodgrains (87,500 M.T. wheat and 12,500 M.T. rice) have been allocated under the Food for Work Programme to build durable community assets and generate employment in rural areas.

The Government of India have allocated Rs. 33.93 crores as advance