

R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Some general complaints of misuse of Food for Work Programme in Jammu Region of Jammu and Kashmir State were received.

(b) The complaints have been got enquired into. There has been long delay in the payment of the wages of the workers. The system of measurement of works adopted by the State Government seems cumbersome and is at the root of the delay in making payment to the workmen. The State Government have been advised to modify the prevailing system and to ensure that wages of the workers are paid in future within a week's time.

**Repayment of loan by Protective Co-operative Thrift and Credit Society Delhi**

4893. SHRI TRILOK CHAND: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Protective Co-operative Thrift and Credit Society, Delhi has not repaid the loans taken by it from the Delhi State Cooperative Bank;

(b) whether the members of the above society have not yet repaid the loan taken by them from the society; and

(c) if so, the number of such members and the amount of loan (principal and interest) outstanding against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) to (c). The Society took a loan of Rs. 43,000 from the Bank out of which Rs. 26,5161.95 as principal is outstanding. The Society's accounts have been audited upto 30th June, 1975. As on that date, Rs. 49,898 as principal and Rs. 613.40 as interest was due from 40 members.

**Membership of the Chander Nagar Co-operative House Building Society Limited, Delhi**

4894. SHRI NAND KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Delhi

has not so far verified the membership of some of the members of the Chander Nagar Cooperative House Building Society Limited who were enrolled as members as far back as 1960 for allotment of plots by the Land and Building Department, Delhi Administration;

(b) if so, the number of such members;

(c) the reasons why they were not allowed to participate in the draw of lots held on the 4th January, 1974 and 24th November, 1978;

(d) the reasons for the delay in finalising their cases; and

(e) the likely date by which their membership will be verified?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b). The Registrar of Cooperative Societies has not so far verified the membership of 2 persons who enrolled themselves as members in 1960.

(c) and (d). The Society did not furnish documents in respect of their eligibility for membership. Hence their names were not included in these two draw of lots.

(e) Their cases would be finalised by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies as soon as proper evidence in support of their eligibility for membership and allotment of plots is furnished by the Society or the members.

**Fixation of Higher Support Price of Paddy, Bajra, Jawar and Maize**

4895. SHRI MOHD. ASRAR AHMAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have received any communication from the Government of U.P. seeking fixation of support price of Paddy, Bajra, Jawar and Maize at Rs. 125 per quintal in place of Rs. 95/- per quintal;

(b) whether the fixation of support price and its announcement before the sowing starts has also been sought;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a Press Report appearing in *Statesman* dated the 13th June, 1980 on page 4 by Agriculture Minister, U.P.; and

(d) if so, the decision of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) No, Sir. A price of Rs. 125 per quintal for paddy, jowar, bajra and maize was suggested by the representatives of Uttar Pradesh Government during discussions with the A.P.C. held on 15th April, 1980.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government will take a decision soon after discussions with the State Governments

#### Effect of Price Rise of Fertiliser

4896. SHRI D. P. JADEJA;  
SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKHARA MURTHY;  
SHRI P. M. SAYEED;  
SHRI GHULAM RASOOL  
KOCHACK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the increase in petrol and its products had any effect on fertiliser prices;

(b) if so, by how much;

(c) whether any State has represented to the Centre that farmers will be hit hard due to this rise; and

(d) if so, the names of the State and the steps taken by Government to control the prices of fertilizer for the safeguard of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. As a result of increase in the

prices of petroleum products, the cost of indigenous and imported fertilisers has gone up. For example, as a result of the recent increase in the price of Naphtha alone, the cost of production of indigenous Urea using Naphtha as its feed stock has gone up by Rs. 285 per tonne on an average. However, the magnitude of the impact will differ from plant to plant depending on the rate of consumption of Naphtha or similar fossil fuel based feed stocks in individual plants.

(c) and (d). The Government of Uttar Pradesh have expressed apprehension that the recent increase might affect the consumption of fertilisers. However, in order to reduce the impact of increase in the prices of fertilisers, the Government have taken the following steps:—

(i) the subsidy on fertilisers at present available to Small and Marginal Farmers in areas affected by drought shall be continued during the current financial year.

(ii) Fertilisers will be supplied at fixed Pool price to the selling agencies upto Block Headquarters, instead of at rail heads. This would ensure easier and more even availability in the interior areas.

(iii) The Agricultural Prices Commission have been requested to consider suitable increase in support/procurement prices of crops beginning from Kharif, 1980 to compensate the farmers for the increased cost on fertilisers.

(iv) The Reserve Bank of India have been requested to ensure availability of adequate credit to farmers.

The maximum retail selling prices of most of the fertilisers are statutorily controlled and any sale at prices higher than those fixed by the Government constitutes an offence under the Essential Commodities Act. The State Governments have powers to take appropriate action.