

The movement of urea from Phulpur to West Bengal has been considered irrational from the transportation point of view. In order to enable West Bengal to obtain urea supplies from IFFCO, the latter were advised to enter into product exchange arrangements with Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation so as to eliminate available movement of urea. Pending finalisation of such arrangement, 10,000 tonnes of urea have been allocated from Phulpur plant to West Bengal during Rabi 1981-82.

(c) Question does not arise.

#### **Import of Edible Oil**

\*18. SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI JANARDHANA POO-  
JARY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to import edible oil for the current year;

(b) if so, the total quantity to be imported; and

(c) the landed price thereof in the country and the ruling price of the same in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL RECONSTRUCTION, IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. In order to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of indigenous edible oils in the country, Government had decided to continue imports of edible oils during the current oil-year 1980-81, ending 31st October, 1981. The actual quantity of edible oils to be so imported by Government during the period would depend on the indigenous production, the demand as ascertained from time to time, the level of prices within the country and international markets, availability of foreign exchange, and other relevant factors.

(c) The landed price of different kinds of oils imported by the STC

differ at various times on account of variable FOB prices prevailing in the international market, the cost of freight and other related factors. For that reason, the release price of oils also vary from time to time. At the present juncture, imported oils, in raw form, are being issued to the vanaspati industry at a price of Rs. 7210 per tonne. The refined oils meant for public distribution, are given to State Governments at prices ranging between Rs. 7,750—8,000 per tonne (which includes cost of refining and tinning.)

#### **Farakka Barrage**

\*19. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANI-  
GRAHI:

SHRI M. RAMGOPAL  
REDDY:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item published in Times of India of 27 July, 1981 'Dacca asks India not to operate Farakka barrage'; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION, AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Farakka barrage is being operated in accordance with the provisions of the Ganga Waters Agreement of November, 1977 which is valid until the 4th November, 1982. There is no obligation on the part of India not to operate the barrage in the absence of a treaty.

At the recent review of the Farakka Agreement both India and Bangladesh had attached great importance to finding an urgent solution to the problem of augmentation of the flows of the Ganga and it had been noted that appropriate and adequate measures for