

(c) that the Government did not get bids from the traders more than the landed cost and later on were forced to accept the lower bids;

(d) that the traders refused the prices offered by the Government;

(e) that later on the Government had to dispose of this to a lower cost which resulted a heavy loss;

(f) if so, the total loss suffered by this; and

(g) whether Government had proposed to sell this sugar at the Fair Price Shops on the rates that were prevalent in the open market, that is Rs. 6.50 per Kg?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The landed cost of imported sugar, as worked out by the State Trading Corporation, came to Rs. 5,200 per metric tonne.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f). A portion of the imported sugar has been disposed of in the open market through auction by tenders while bulk of the imported sugar has been ordered to be released to various State Governments/Food Corporation of India for meeting a portion of the levy requirements of November and December 1981. The disposal of imported sugar is still not completed and is going on and it is not possible at this juncture to work out any profit/loss to the STC/Govt. of India in regard to the entire import of sugar, its distribution as levy sugar and the possibility of subsequently exporting the replaced imported sugar through 1981-82 levy sugar to meet India's export commitments.

(g) No, Sir.

Failure of N. R. E. P

178. SHRI B. V. DESAI:

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL
KOCHAK:

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Rural Employment Programme is in doldrums;

(b) if so, whether the programme is yet to take off in all the States, some of whom have made no provision for it in their budget;

(c) whether half of the year has gone by but the programme is doling under the impact of uncertain approach both by the Centre and the States;

(d) whether his Ministry has urged the States to prepare the projects as a continuous process on sufficiently dispersed scale for each district or block so that the needs of the rural community particularly the economically and socially handicapped can be catered to a priority basis;

(e) whether the States had been asked to prepare all the projects and forward them to the Ministry by the end of October, 1981;

(f) if so, how many States have forwarded the same; and

(g) the action taken by Government to help the States in its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) to (c). The National Rural Employment Programme is not in the

doldrums. Most of the States have made necessary provision of funds in their budgets. Such of them, as had not done so in the beginning of the year, are doing it now through reappropriation/supplementary grants. The works under the programme are being executed in almost all the States. There is no uncertainty in the approach of the Central and the State Government towards this programme, and it has continued to be implemented right from the beginning of the year.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f). Only the samples of the shelf of projects prepared are required to be sent to the Central Government. So far, 5 States have sent the samples of the shelf of projects prepared by them.

(g) Central Government Officers are visiting the States to provide necessary guidance to them for implementing the programme properly.

Promotion of Application of Fertilizer

179. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to augment the foodgrains production in 1981-82 through the application of more fertilisers to the Rabi crops;

(b) whether some States have been urged to promote larger fertiliser application to the crops coming up in consultation with RBI to induce them to increase facilities for fertiliser distribution agencies and farmers and also reduce the interest rates;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Centre has already initiated steps to see that the fertiliser production is increased; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps being worked out in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The States have been requested to take all possible steps to boost fertiliser consumption and achieve the fertiliser consumption targets. The Reserve Bank of India has been requested to increase credit facilities for distribution agencies and farmers and also reduce the interest rate.

(c) and (d). Measures like plant operation improvement programmes, installation of captive power generation facilities and addition of balancing equipments are being taken on a continuous basis to improve the performance of fertiliser plants. In order to augment production of fertilisers in 1981-82, steps have already been taken to ensure adequate supplies of feedstock and inputs to the fertiliser plants. As a result, the production of fertiliser during the first half of 1981-82 (April-September) has shown a 62.5 per cent increase in the case of nitrogenous fertilisers and 9.1 per cent in the case of phosphatic fertilisers over the production during the corresponding period of last year.

Department of Agriculture Regional Meeting held on 27-9-1981

180. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two day regional meeting to discuss programmes for the effective implementation of agricultural development programmes during 1981-82 was held on 27 September, 1981;

(b) if so, whether this was the first of a series of meetings proposed to