

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