

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

be held by the Department of Agriculture during the current agricultural year;

(c) if so, what were the subjects discussed and the decisions arrived at in the meeting;

(d) whether it was felt that in order to synchronise water release from irrigation projects like Bhakra it was recommended that the representatives of the concerned States of the Bhakra-Beas Management Board may also be invited; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that the States were urged to make the fullest use of the facilities available at the fertiliser, pesticides and seed testing laboratories to check the quality of inputs like seeds and fertilisers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A two-day regional meeting to discuss the measures required for ensuring effective implementation of agricultural development programmes during 1981-82 was held at New Delhi on 26th and 27th September, 1981 for the States of Punjab, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The subjects discussed at the regional meeting related to: (i) Review of Kharif Crop Situation, (ii) Rabi Production Strategy, 1981-82, (iii) Horticulture, (iv) Seeds, (v) Fertilisers and Bio-gas Development, (vi) Plant Protection and Quality Control, (vii) Agricultural Extension and Training, (viii) Agricultural Credit, (ix) Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development, (x) Fisheries, (xi) Forestry including Social Forestry and Wild Life Preservation and Soil & Water Conservation, and (xii) Cooperation. The important conclusions and recommendations made at

the regional meeting are given in the attached statement.

(d) Yes, Sir. It was recommended that the actual requirements of the State Governments in respect of irrigation water for the ensuing rabi season should be communicated to the Bhakra-Beas Management Board well in advance and that this Board should include a representative of the Agriculture Department of each of the concerned States so as to ensure their close involvement in the decision-making process relating to the release of canal water for agricultural purposes.

(e) Yes, Sir.

#### *Statement*

*Important Conclusions and Recommendations made at the Regional Meeting held in New Delhi on 26th and 27th September, 1981.*

The main focus of discussion at the regional meeting was on drawing up an Action Programme for mounting a Compensatory Rabi Production on Campaign during the current rabi season. The main elements of the Action Programme were timely sowing, adequate supply of inputs, optimum utilisation of available water resources, larger coverage under high yielding varieties, integrated pest management and surveillance, timely release of water in the canals, organisation of inputs-cum-credit supply melas for on-the-spot sanction and disbursement of loans to the farmers, pure cropping of rapeseed and mustard, and offering of suitable monetary as well as non-monetary incentives to officers for their performance in achieving or exceeding the targets assigned to them. For synchronisation of release of water in the canals with the water requirements of various crops, the Governments of Punjab and Haryana were requested to communicate to the Bhakra-Beas Management Board well in advance their actual requirements

of irrigation water for the ensuing rabi season. It was recommended that the Bhakra-Bees Management Board should include a representative of the Department of Agriculture of each of the concerned States so as to ensure their close involvement in the decision-making process relating to the release of canal water for agricultural purposes.

Some of the other important recommendations made at the meeting were:

(i) The need for proper planing of seed production, multiplication and distribution was stressed.

(ii) The State Governments were asked to step up fertilizer consumption and promote balanced as well as efficient use of fertilizers to augment agricultural production. Efforts should be intensified to increase fertiliser consumption in the districts which are characterised by low consumption at present but which are potentially capable of utilising more fertilisers. The problem of zinc deficiency in the soils of Punjab and Haryana should be tackled systematically and the farmers should be supplied with zinc sulphate of proper quality. The installed capacity of the existing fertiliser quality control laboratories should be fully utilised by the State Governments.

(iii) The State Governments were urged to take full advantage of the National Project on Bio-gas Development.

(iv) As regards plant protection, the States were asked to step up their surveillance efforts and to strengthen the quality control arrangements for pesticides.

(v) The Governments of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh were requested to expedite their proposals for reorganising and strengthening

their extension system on the Training and Visit pattern.

(vi) In respect of agricultural credit, the meeting recommended that the State Level Committee on Institutional Finance should include a review of cooperative credit also to get a complete picture of total institutional credit support for agriculture and allied programmes. The State Governments were urged to set up a Standing Committee of the State Level Committee exclusively for agricultural credit to undertake regular and periodical monitoring of institutional credit support for the development programmes in the agricultural sector.

(vii) As regards horticulture, the meeting recommended that Punjab and Haryana should pay special attention to the development of marketing and processing infrastructure. Inadequacy of data base was identified as a critical gap in the planning of horticultural development. The meeting recommended that a horticultural census should be conducted in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

(viii) In the field of animal husbandry, stress was laid on developing a Master Plan to switch over to frozen semen technology in a phased manner. Selected Gaushalas should adopt crossbreeding with exotic dairy breeds. The States were requested to make a critical review of the development needs and provide necessary manpower and funds for intensifying Fodder Development Programmes.

(ix) The Government of Punjab were requested to regulate the private dairy industry so as to facilitate proper growth of dairy cooperatives. The Indian Dairy Corporation should expedite its appraisal report on the Operation Flood-II Perspective Plan of Jammu and Kashmir.

## KOSI CONTROL BOARD

(x) In the field of fisheries, the Governments of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir were asked to formulate and submit suitable proposals for setting up Fish Farmers Development Agencies. They were also asked to intensify measures for protecting Mahaser fish which is almost an endangered species. For exploitation of fisheries resources in the Gobindsagar and Pong reservoirs, a cooperative federation should be set up. The State Governments should take necessary steps to increase fish seed availability. Lease of tanks and ponds should be for a minimum period of 7 years.

(xi) The States were urged to expand their afforestation activities. Punjab and Haryana should intensify their agro-forestry programme. As hydrology and sediment-monitoring forms an integral part of the soil conservation treatment, the States were urged to select at least one watershed in each catchment for sediment-monitoring.

(xii) The Land Use Boards in Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh should be activated.

(xiii) In the field of Cooperation, it was recommended that the existing regulations fixing a ceiling on rentals need relaxation in favour of the new cold storages being set up by the cooperatives. The National Cooperative Agricultural Marketing Federation should prepare an integrated scheme for marketing of apples of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh in the terminal markets and approach the National Cooperative Development Corporation for financial assistance therefor. The Ministry of Agriculture should take up with the Reserve Bank of India the question of reducing the higher rate of interest charged by the commercial banks for fertiliser credit.

181. SHRI HARINATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether an announcement had been made by the then Minister of Irrigation in 1980 that for proper execution of the Western Kosi Canal Project, a Control Board consisting of the representative, one each of Union Government, Government of Nepal, and State of Bihar, would be constituted;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in connection with the formation of the Control Board and the result thereof;

(c) has any Control Board been formed so far; if not, the reasons for the delay and how the progress of execution of the project is watched and monitored;

(d) the year-wise allocation of funds together with physical targets to be achieved during the Sixth Plan period; and

(e) the upto-date position with regard to the expenditure on the project in Bihar areas and the physical work done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) On 5-8-80 the then Minister of Irrigation had informed the House that it was proposed to constitute Kosi Control Board headed by the Union Minister of Irrigation and including Chief Minister of Bihar. It was not proposed to include any representative from H.M.G. Nepal in that Board.

(b) The Government of Bihar did not agree to the constitution of such a Board.

(c) The Government of Bihar have now revived and reconstituted the