

Reported Failure of F.C.I. to Move Food-grains to West Bengal Districts

*618. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Food Corporation of India failed to move foodgrains to different districts of West Bengal in time; and

(b) if so, steps to be taken by Government in this regard so that the Food Corporation of India could be able to move foodgrains to different districts of West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b). It is not a fact that the Food Corporation of India has failed to move foodgrains to different districts of West Bengal in time. In fact, the quantity of 21.77 lakh tones of foodgrains moved by the Food Corporation of India to West Bengal in 1981 was the highest among the States, and the stock of wheat and rice in West Bengal on 1st March, 1982 was also comfortable at 2.75 lakh and 2.41 lakh tonnes respectively. Movement to all the States, including West Bengal, is regularly monitored by a composite high-level group to ensure conformity with movement programme and availability at the districts and depots.

Grant from Danish Government for Implementing Rural Water Supply Scheme.

7408. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Danish Government is going to provide grant to implement Rural Supply Scheme in the country;

(b) if so, the amount expected from the Danish Government for the above purpose;

(c) the expected time of getting the Danish Government aid; and

(d) the names of the States which have been selected to provide drinking water under Danish Government aid?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) to (d). Two Rural Water Supply Projects in the states of Tamilnadu and Karnataka assisted by the Government of Denmark are already under implementation. The assistance to be received for these two projects is in the shape of rigs and other equipment at an estimated cost of 16.0 million Danish Kroner (Rs. 2 Crores) and 19.7 million Danish Kroner (Rs. 2.5 Crores) respectively.

The Govt. of Denmark have also agreed to assist another project for rejuvenation of hand pumps in the districts of Salem and South Arcot in Tamil Nadu State. The equipment assistance expected is of the order of Rs. 72 lakhs.

Agreement is likely to be concluded soon for a Rural Water Supply Project in the Saline Belt of Orissa with a probable coverage of 3500 to 4000 problem villages. The total expected assistance from the Govt. of Denmark for this project is Rs. 220 million. A Side Letter for extending financial assistance of Rs. 12.4 million for the preparatory phase of the project is expected to be signed between the two countries.

Apart from this, Danish Govt. has shown interest in the proposals for replacement of hand pumps in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa and a comprehensive water supply project for the districts of Salem and South Arcot in Tamilnadu for possible assistance.

National Rural Employment Programme in Cachar (Assam)

7409. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the works taken up under National Rural Employment Programme in Cachar (Assam); and

(b) the number of works taken up by the Government of Assam under NREP since its inception till date in the district of Cachar?