

**News item "Fruit a solution to malnutrition"**

3302. SHRI HARINATHA MISRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news item captioned "Fruits a solution to malnutrition" as published in *Indian Express* dated 17 February, 1982;

(b) if so, whether despite tremendous potential, India produces only 55 to 60 grammes of fruits per person against the minimum daily requirements of 85 grammes;

(c) whether it is a fact that rich consume upto 250 grammes of fruit daily and there is hardly anything left for the average citizen even if he can afford it;

(d) whether to combat malnutrition among large-scale population, Government are planning to increase production of fruits and vegetables and make them available at cheap price; and

(e) if so, steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase the production of fruits and vegetables in the country commensurate with its needs; with adequate and suitable arrangements for their preservation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir, the present per capita availability of fruits is below the minimum daily requirements.

(c) No reliable information is available in this regard.

(d) Yes Sir, by the end of the 6th Plan (1984-85), it is estimated that the production of fruits would increase to 244 lakh tonnes and vegetables production to 356.7 lakh tonnes. This would ease the availability of fruits and vegetables. It is likely that these fruits and vegetables will be available at reasonable rates.

(e) With a view to augment the production of fruits and vegetables, this Ministry has prepared two schemes viz. (1) Establishment of Elite Progeny Orchards and (2) Intensification of Vegetable Production around big cities for internal consumption and export to be implemented during the 6th Plan. These schemes also provide for post harvest handling of horticultural produce. In addition cold storages are being developed under cooperative, public and private sectors for preservation of perishables.

The State Governments are also implementing various schemes for boosting the production of fruits and vegetables.

**Clearance of Manikhera-Mohinisagar scheme**

3304. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Manikhera—Mohinisagar scheme, purported to cover 1/3rd of the Gwalior-Chambal Division has been cleared by the Central Government/Central Water Commission; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay in clearing the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The reference is presumably to the Sindh River Project Phase II which is a multi-purpose project envisaging construction of a dam across Sindh river near village Manikhera to form Mohinisagar reservoir. This project has not yet been cleared by the Central Government/Central Water Commission.

(b) The replies to the comments of Central Water Commission on the civil side of the project have only recently been received and are under examination in the Commission. The replies to comments on power side of the Project are still awaited from the State Government. The Project can be processed for clearance only after the outstanding issues are settled, its

techno-economic feasibility established and cost/benefits are firmed up.

#### **Working of Food Corporation of India**

3305. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAIN SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been mismanagement and corruption in the Food Corporation of India at the level of senior management during the course of procurement operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps taken to eradicate the corruption and improve the procurement operations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Any complaint received in connection with procurement operations is promptly inquired into by the management of the Food Corporation of India and appropriate action is taken. Further the Corporation has squads at Regional/Zonal/Head Office levels which visit procurement centres for inspection in this regard.

#### **Development work of Coconut Board**

3306. SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of fund allotment no development work is carried out by the Coconut Development Board during last year;

(b) the reasons, for not carrying out the new planting and replanting the schemes of Coconut Development Board; the reasons as to why the Board is not issuing low interest long term loans to encourage cultivators and give cash subsidy to new cultivators; and

(c) is there enough staff to carry out the development schemes of the Coconut Board?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Seven projects recently submitted by the Coconut Development Board include new planting and replanting of coconut palm and also grant of subsidy for diseased palms removed by the farmer. Provision has also been made for the advance of institutional credit on favourable terms to the growers. These projects were received in January, 1982 and are being processed.

(c) Yes Sir.

#### **Soil erosion a problem for soil scientists**

3307. SHRI M. RAMGÓPÁL REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that soil erosion is posing a major problem for the soil scientists in the country; and

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINÁTHAN): (a) The problem of soil erosion is a matter of concern to all including the soil scientists in the country.

(b) A statement is attached.

#### **Statement**

Recognising the problem of widespread soil erosion and land degradation the Government initiated the soil conservation programmes during the First Five Year Plan through Central and State Sectors. Simultaneously, a chain of 9 Research, Demonstration & Training Centres, were established in various regions with a view to collect information and data relating to the problem and evolve remedial measures to tackle the same and to organise demonstration and impart in-service training to the personnel of various levels.