

(SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) to (c). Development of markets is an important component of Integrated Rural Development. As lack of adequate marketing support has been one of the crucial constraints for rural development, it has been considered desirable to identify specific locations which need to be developed as primary markets. Since District Rural Development Agencies are already engaged in the preparation of a comprehensive 5-Year perspective plan for rural development, it has been suggested to the States/Union Territory Governments that necessary instructions may be issued to all the Agencies to the effect that they should also identify such locations which have potential of being developed into primary agricultural markets and pass on the information to the Department of Agriculture/Market Development Officer or Agricultural Marketing Boards which are directly concerned with the development of agricultural markets.

Operation Flood-I

8506. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a UN Inter-agency mission toured the areas covered by Operation Flood-I and have described the operation as successful; and

(b) if so, when the second phase of the programme will be taken in hand and the added new features that this scheme will have over those in the first programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) An Inter-agency terminal Evaluation Mission set up by the World Food Programme visited certain areas covered by Operation Flood I Project. According to the conclusions of the Mission, the project has been by and large successful.

(b) Operation Flood II Project has been launched. The programme is intended to cover about 155 Milkshed districts. Further, the programme is expected to benefit 10 million farm families and cover a National Milch Herd of about 15 million cross-breed Cows and Upgraded buffaloes.

Subsidy on agricultural products

8507. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is currently bearing an element of subsidy on agriculture inputs like fertilizer, insecticide, pesticides, power and water which amounts to Rs. 1000 crores per year;

(b) whether Government have undertaken any study to find out how this subsidy is being divided among the different items mentioned above and if so, their break-up;

(c) whether it is a fact that the use of fertilizer is concentrated in a limited area and within that area among the rich farmers only and thus the major portion of the subsidy that the Government is now giving goes to the farmers with large holdings; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure that all regions of the country use fertilizer adequately and the poor farmers do not have to depend on the rich farmers to buy their requirements of fertilizer at high prices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI): (a) and (b). The quantum of subsidy on agricultural inputs depends upon the quantity of supply of particular inputs and the rate of subsidy involved in each one of them. During the year 1981-82, the Central Government incurred a subsidy of about Rs. 365 crores on fertilizers and Rs. 1.8 crores on insecticides/pestici-