

Sale of fertilizers by farmers given under crop-loan

1218. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRI DAULAT RAM SARAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware that a large percentage of the fertilizers given to small farmers under the crop loan system is being sold by them at a discount as the quantity of fertilizers given under the system is in excess of their requirements;

(b) if so, what is the existing ratio, if any, fixed between the cash and kind components of crop-loan; and

(c) whether Government would consider the question of reviewing the existing ratio to make it more rational and scientific?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Cash and kind components of crop loans are fixed by a technical group consisting of the representatives of the Agriculture Department, Cooperative Department and Cooperative Institutions and a few progressive farmers on the basis of agricultural practices followed, the type of seed used, availability of irrigation facilities etc., in each district. Therefore, there is no need for any change in the existing system.

Impact of recent natural calamities on the Output of Rabi and Kharif crops

1219. SHRI P. M. SAYEED:
SHRI K. MALLANNA:
DR. VASANT KUMAR PAN-
DIT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether paddy output is likely to suffer a sizeable loss during the current

season on account of floods in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Assam etc;

(b) if so, whether any estimate has been drawn as to what extent the paddy loss will be there;

(c) whether both Rabi and Kharif crops have been affected, by droughts, unseasonal rains and floods;

(d) if so, what extent; and

(e) steps being taken to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). Paddy output in the current season is likely to be adversely affected to some extent on account of floods in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Assam etc. However, no quantitative estimate of the likely loss is as yet available.

(c) and (d). The unseasonal rains in the April-May 1982 affected the standing/harvested wheat crop in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The extent of loss is estimated at about 2 million tonnes.

As a result of drought and floods during the Kharif 1982, the production is likely to be lower than last year. However, the quantitative estimate of shortfall is not yet available;

(e) Various measures have been taken to meet the situation arising out of drought and floods. These include, among others;

(i) Alternative cropping strategies emphasising short duration and low water using crops to reduce kharif loss.

(ii) Optimum use of available irrigation water to increase the productivity of crops.

(iii) Provision of inputs.

(iv) Ensuring availability of power and diesel for the running of pump sets.

(v) Mounting a rabi campaign to compensate likely loss in kharif output of foodgrains.