

Statement

I. Funds released and targets achieved from 1980-81 to 1982-83.

	Funds released by the Central Government* from 1980-81 to 1982-83 (Rs. in crores)	Target achieved from 1980-81 to 1982-83
IRDP	300.96@	74.12 Lakhs beneficiaries.
NREP	698.73£	10,107.20 Lakhs mandays of employment generated.§

* An equal amount is to be provided by the States for these Programmes in their budget. NREP, wholly financed by the Central Government in 1980-81.

@ Information up to 31st January, 1983. (provisional)

£ Information up to 15th February, 1983.

§ Provisional.

II. Problems experienced and steps taken to solve them

(1) IRDP

Some of the major constraints are inadequacies in the flow of credit and administrative infrastructure. The Ministry has been taking up the credit problems with the Reserve Bank of India, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and the banks. As regards administrative infrastructure, the Govt. of India has a scheme under which it shares the expenditure on the strengthening of staff at various levels.

(ii) NREP

The major constraint relates to the movement and distribution of foodgrains. It has been possible to remove some of the bottlenecks in this regard as a result of the frequent review meetings with the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies and the Food Corporation of India. Operational problems are also discussed in the interdepartmental committee set up by the Ministry.

Meeting of the Advisory Council of Public Distribution

1276. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the monthly allocation of wheat and rice for public distribution now be made latest by the second week to the States to enable them to lift the same in time;

(b) whether this was the decision taken after the meeting of the Advisory Council of Public Distribution which ended in New Delhi in November, 1982;

(c) if so, what were the other suggestions made in the meeting of the Advisory Council;

(d) whether the meeting was attended by all the Food and Civil Supplies Ministers of States and Union territories;

(e) if so, what were the decisions taken and whether Railways have been requested to give top priority for providing trains for the quick distribution of the foodgrains to the States; and

(f) if so, what were their reactions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): a) and (b). As at present, the monthly allocation orders of foodgrains are issued by the middle of the month preceding the month to which the allocation relates. This is in line with a recommendation on the subject made in the Advisory Council on Public Distribution in November, 1982.

(c) to (f). Food and Civil Supplies Ministers of 13 States and Union Territories attended the meeting of the Advisory Council on Public Distribution held in November, 1982. Certain other States were represented by senior officers of the concerned State Governments. The main suggestions from the States related to the provision of additional quantities of foodgrains and other essential commodities, movement of these commodities on a priority basis particularly in the North-East, setting up of additional storage capacity, and provision of credit facilities to the cooperatives at lower interest rates. Steps taken by the Central Government and its agencies in this regard were conveyed to the participants in the meeting. The Railway Board has accorded a very high priority to the movement of foodgrains required for public distribution. The State Governments were also requested to expand the public distribution system by opening more fair price shops and to ensure that whatever was allocated to them was equitably distributed to the genuine consumers. Complaints of irregularities should continue to be given serious attention by the State Governments, and irregularities checked through recourse to the penal provisions of the existing legislations. The infrastructure for public distribution system in the States was to be strengthened by them through various steps.

Probe into Working of ICAR Poultry Research Projects

1277. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand for probe into the working of the 12-year old Poultry Research Project of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been made;

(b) whether the Poultry projects spread over 14 ICAR centres were started in 1970 to achieve national self-sufficiency with respect to poultry breeding stocks;

(c) if so, whether Government have accepted the demand for a probe into the project;

(d) by what time this enquiry committee is likely to be appointed;

(e) if not, the main reasons for the same; and

(f) whether the project which was started in 1970, has not achieved its aims and objectives so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKAWANA): (a) No, Sir. The Ministry of Agriculture is not aware of any such demand.

(b) No, Sir. The projects were started with a view to conduct research on various aspects of genetics of poultry production for egg and meat and ultimately evolve commercial layer capable of laying at least 220 eggs of standard size during 500 days of age and commercial broiler weighing at least 1200 gm at 8 weeks of age.

In order to achieve these research objectives several strains available in the country or imported from abroad have been evaluated as purebreds and in reciprocal crosses and further improved through intra-population selection. Commercial strain crosses have been developed both for layers and broilers in the project. The layer cross (ILI-80) developed under this project has been released for commercial exploitation by the Central Poultry Varietal Release Committee with an egg production of 262 eggs on hen housed basis and 275 eggs on hen day basis. Two more layer strains ILJ-83 and IIH-83 have been developed and recommended for release at the last workshop on AICRP on Poultry Breed-