

(c) All States have been advised to draw an action programme for planning implementing, coordinating and monitoring of the dryland farming programme keeping in view the multi-disciplinary approach involved therein. They have also been advised to ensure availability of agricultural inputs within the easy reach of the farmers in adequate quantities. They have in particular been requested for the constitution of a multi-disciplinary committee at the block level for planning, implementation and monitoring of the integrated watershed development projects for dryland areas and also setting up projects for dryland areas and also setting up an inter-departmental Committee at the State level to over-see and coordinate the various on-going programmes of the agriculture, rural development and other concerned departments for development of dryland farming. The identified watersheds should receive preference in the distribution of agricultural inputs and credit.

Prices of Vanaspati

1326. SHRI MANOHAR LAL SAINI:

SHRI R. L. P. VERMA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply given on 8th March, 1982 to Starred Question No. 213 regarding steps to reduce price of Vanaspati and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of small packs, are not correlated with the price of a 16.5 Kg. tin;

(b) will the price of Panghat 16.5 Kg. tin and those of 1 to 5 Kgs. Rath be indicated and correlated; and

(c) will an embargo be placed on the manufacturers to produce only a limited quantity of ghee in small packs so that they are unable to exploit the public at large?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) and (b) Presently there is no statutory control on the prices of vanaspati. However, a voluntary price restraint is being observed by the industry whereby the maximum price of 16.5 Kg. tin is fixed at Rs. 217 ex-factory. Although the basic price of vanaspati in small-packs is correlated to the bulk packing, it costs slightly more on account of higher cost of packing, handling etc.

(c) The matter is engaging attention of the Government.

Financial Allocations to Irrigation Projects

1327. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn towards the observation of the Seventh All-India Conference of State Ministers for irrigation held in Madras which had 'noted with alarm' the fact that inadequate financial outlays were the main constraints preventing the fulfilment of Plan targets; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken for adequate allocation of funds for the irrigation projects in different State during the Sixth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b). The Seventh All-India Conference of State Minister for irrigation held in Madras in December 1982 took note of the inadequate financial input to be a major constraint, apart from others in the effort to achieve the maximum possible level of potential creation and utilisation. Nevertheless, the State Governments have been advised to allocate maximum possible funds to irrigation sector so as to achieve the target.