

**Boosting Rabi Production**

3147. SHRI DIGAMBER SINGH :  
SHRI K. PRADHANI :  
SHRI HARIHAR SOREN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by his Ministry to boost rabi crop production ;

(b) whether any suggestions have been made in this behalf to the States urging them to maximise production of foodgrains ; and

(c) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) To boost up rabi production, a massive Rabi Production Campaign has been mounted. The States have been requested to concentrate on non-monetary inputs like timely sowing, line sowing, timely weeding and ensuring timely supply of agricultural inputs like electricity, diesel, irrigation, seeds, fertilisers etc. to the farmers. A massive Programme has been launched for the distribution of minikits among the farmers.

(b) and (c). The following suggestions have been made to the State Governments for increasing foodgrains production during rabi season :—

- (i) Adequate and timely supply of inputs like credit, seeds, fertilisers, weedicides and other pesticides ;
- (ii) Timely sowing of wheat, gram and other rabi crops ;
- (iii) Ensuring timely and adequate supply of canal water for irrigation and adequate power and diesel ; and
- (iv) Provision of timely and need based plant protection measures.

**Prices of Packed Items Increased Overnight**

3148. DR. A.U. AZMI :  
SHRI MANOHAR LAL SAINI :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether prices of packaged items are increased overnight by the manufacturers/retailers and the same are effective even on the items which are already available in the shops ; and

(b) if so, the orders on the subject ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (DR. M.S. SANJEEVI RAO) : (a) and (b). Under the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977, the manufacturers are required to indicate the sale price on the packaged commodities which are intended to be sold or distributed in the course of inter-State trade or commerce. The retailers are prohibited to alter the sale price indicated by the manufacturers.

**Foreign help for Buffalo Research Institute**

3149. SHRI K. MALLANNA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a new research institute on buffaloes ; and

(b) the details regarding the help sought, if any, from foreign countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is in the process of establishing a Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes during the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85).

(b) No help has been sought from foreign countries for establishing the proposed Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes.