

Building of Storage Godowns in Himachal Pradesh

4292. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India proposes to build godowns for the storage of foodgrains in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the names of the places for which any demand has been received in this regard and the Government response to the demands;

(c) the likely date by which any decision would be taken in this regard, including the names of the places which are under the consideration of Government for this purpose; and

(d) whether the location would be decided keeping in view the claims of the places which are on the borders of the State of Himachal Pradesh with Punjab and Haryana ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (DR. M.S. SANJEEVI RAO) : (a) to (d) The Food Corporation of India and the Central Warehousing Corporation propose to build godowns at Chamba, Kangra, Simla, Mandi and Solan in Himachal Pradesh. The Food Corporation of India had received a request for construction of godowns at Gagret in district Una, Nadaun in district Hamirpur and Bilaspur or Swarghat in district Bilaspur. The Corporation has considered the request in consultation with the Government of Himachal Pradesh and come to the conclusion that the godowns at Gagret and Nadaun may not be of much use. The request for construction of godown in district Bilaspur is under the consideration of the Corporation and a decision would be taken at the earliest possible. The exact location of the godown would be decided keeping in view the availability of land and other operational considerations.

Allocation to Hill Regions for Green Cover

4293. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to consider the claim of the hill States/regions for special allocation of funds so as to enable them to bring larger area under the green cover by preparing, developing and cultivating new Forests in their jurisdiction;

(b) if so, the nature of the demand made by any hill State, in this regard and the response of the Union Government thereto; and

(c) if not, whether Union Government would suo motto offer any such incentive to the hill States so as to extend the green cover to larger areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) Government is already allocating funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Social Forestry including Rural Fuelwood Plantations and Soil, Water and Tree Conservation in the Himalayas (Operation SOIL WATCH) for extending green cover in hill States/regions and preserving the fragile Himalayan ecology. During 1980-81 to 1983-84, funds amounting to Rs. 2026.42 lakhs have been allocated to hill States under these schemes.

(c) Question does not arise.

Alleged Manipulation in Operation Flood.

4294. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an article "Operation Flood The White Lie" published in the Illustrated Weekly of India in November, 1983;