

specifications and labelling/packing requirements stipulated by the importers.

(c) Complaints received in regard to quality of fruit and vegetable products are examined and dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Order.

Formulating a Strategy to Ensure Stable Agricultural Production in Drought Years

7074. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are formulating a strategy to ensure that agricultural production remains stable even in drought years during Seventh Plan Period;

(b) whether one of the major Planks of this strategy will be widespread consolidation of land holdings in States of the central and eastern region;

(c) whether Planning Commission is of the view that unless agricultural production is stabilised in drought years, it would not be able to obtain sustained growth in the sector;

(d) whether Planning Commission has also suggested that emphasis should be laid on three major areas in Seventh Plan, firstly, regarding investment for fertiliser secondly, irrigation and power, and thirdly research and development intensified in pulses and oilseeds; and

(e) the other suggestions made and to what extent Union Government are Considering these factors for inclusion in Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (e) The strategy for the Seventh Five Year Plan is currently under formulation. For this purpose, the Planning Commission has constituted a number of Working Groups in the Ministry of Agriculture and other Ministries.

The Planning Commission is also formulating an 'Approach Paper' for the Seventh Plan for the guidance of the various Ministries and State Govts.

As regards the question of ensuring stability in production, Government is keen that severe fluctuations in agricultural production are minimised, although it would not be possible to avoid short-falls in drought years because 70 per cent of our cropped area is still dependent on rainfall. Under the Prime Minister's New 20-Point Programme systematic efforts are being made for the development of rainfed/dryland areas. As a result of the various developmental programmes implemented under our Five Year Plans, Indian Agriculture has steadily gained strength and resilience. This is evident from the fact that during 1982-83, which was the most widespread drought year of the century, foodgrains production suffered a loss of only about 5 million tonnes over the previous year, whereas in the drought year 1979-80 of lesser spread, the fall in foodgrains production was as much as 22 million tonnes.

Rice Procurement

7075. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether rice procurement has reached 6.5 million tonnes in the current kharif marketing season;

(b) if so, whether this is 6 lakh tonnes higher than the corresponding period for the last season;

(c) whether the significant feature of this year's purchase of paddy has been enhanced role of millers who have entered the market in a big way;

(d) whether Food Corporation of India has appreciated the higher purchase by millers;

(e) the total procurement made in rice producing States, State-wise;