

tion of crops under the programme of new agricultural strategy. Adopting this policy to size of operational holdings major sources of power could be indicated as in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-912/71]. Credit facilities would be extended through the different financing institutions for enabling farmers and entrepreneurs to acquire costly machines. Programmes of training for enabling the farmers to efficiently utilise agricultural machinery and implements would be strengthened. Introduction and popularisation of improved implements will be intensified through National Demonstrations and research and development on these intensified. These programmes will be of special benefit to farmers with small and medium farms.

(c) Tractors in the 20 h.p. range would be more in demand on farms of 25 to 50 acres; whereas higher h.p. tractors would be required on bigger farms, for custom hiring, for deep-ploughing, land development, etc. Based on the demand trend and the suitability of tractors in the different h.p. ranges for farms in the different sizes, the estimated requirements of tractors towards 1973-74 is as under :

12 .. 20	dbhp	25,000	nos.
21 .. 35	dbhp	45,000	„
36 .. 50	dbhp	18,000	„
51 & above		2,000	„
			<u>90,000</u>	„

Similarly, combine harvesters suitable for working with tractors of 21 to 50 h.p. would be used mostly by medium and large farms; whereas larger self-propelled combines would be used by big farms or jointly by group of farmers or by organisations engaged in providing custom hiring. The programme for supply of tractors and combines in the different sizes, generally, relates to demand trends and for catering to the requirements of farms of different sizes and agricultural conditions.

Shortfall of Nitrogenous Fertilizers

7846. SHRI RANABHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the possible reasons for a short-fall of

nitrogenous fertilizers in the year 1970-71 by 5 per cent as compared to the increase in the average under high yielding variety of crops ;

(b) whether Government contemplate to take steps to check this trend ; and

(c) whether Government have State-wise data that could show the regions where this trend is pronounced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) There was no shortfall in the consumption of nitrogenous fertilizers in the year 1970-71. In fact, the consumption of nitrogenous fertilizers increased by 2% over that in the preceding year. However, this increase is not as much as the increase in the acreage under high yielding varieties of crops which has registered an increase of 28% in 1970-71 over that in the preceding year.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government have studied reasons for this low increase of consumption in fertilizers as compared to the increase in the acreage under high-yielding varieties of crops. It was found that the application of fertilizers is generally lower than the optimum level of application prescribed in many areas due to the following reasons :—

(i) Constraints on the availability of credit for fertilizer distribution and use.

(ii) Gaps in extension and promotional efforts aimed at increased use of fertilizers especially for high yielding varieties of crops.

(iii) Natural causes such as cyclones and floods in some States.

The Government are seized of the problems and are taking various steps to increase the rate of growth of fertilizer consumption. They have recently set up a Credit Guarantee Corporation to encourage commercial banks to provide greater credit facilities to farmers and dealers of fertilizers. The State Governments have also been urged to ensure the availability of production credit to farmers in larger measure through Cooperatives. The Government of India are also continuing to give short-term loans to the States for stocking and distribution of fertilizers.

The Distribution system was liberalised by replacing licensing by a simpler and quicker method of registration. Besides, the Central Fertilizer Pool is maintaining buffer stocks in various States where the distribution system is not efficient and transport infrastructure is weak. The Pool also liberalised distribution arrangements by making direct supplies to Cooperatives, Zilla Parishads, etc.

As regards extension, two important schemes having a direct bearing on fertilizer consumption are in operation viz., (a) National demonstrations, and (b) Farmers' education and training programme under which latest

technology including optimum and balanced use of fertilizers is extended to farmers. The Government are also considering a scheme to mount a massive and effective campaign for promoting balanced and increased use of fertilizers. This would supplement the promotional measures undertaken by the State Governments and manufacturers.

(c) A statement showing the State-wise increase in the consumption of nitrogenous as compared to the corresponding increase in the acreage under high-yielding varieties of crops during the year 1970-71 over the preceding year, is enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	State/Others	Estimated percentage increase in the consumption of nitrogenous fertilizers in 1970-71 over that in 1969-70.	Estimated percentage increase in the acreage under high-yielding varieties of crops in 1970-71 over that in 1969-70.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	(-) 29	39
2.	Assam	Nil	50
3.	Bihar	16	27
4.	Gujarat	(-) 4	65
5.	Haryana	20	46
6.	Himachal Pradesh	(-) 48	76
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	34	24
8.	Kerala	(-) 12	18
9.	Madhya Pradesh	63	23
10.	Maharashtra	33	54
11.	Mysore	6	35
12.	Orissa	(-) 4	45
13.	Punjab	10	7
14.	Rajasthan	43	29
15.	Uttar Pradesh	(-) 7	13
16.	West Bengal	37	34
17.	Tamil Nadu	18	31
18.	Others	2	17
Total :—		2	28