

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): (a) Government have been receiving, from time to time, representations from teachers, as well as teachers' organisations, regarding improvement of salary scales.

(b) Demands have been made separately for a single running grade as well as for two grades.

(c) No representation in this regard has been received.

(d) The question of revision of scales of University and College teachers, based on the recommendations made by the University Grants Commission, is under examination.

Agriculture policy for Fifth Plan

1711. **SHRI MADHU LIMAYE:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intend to formulate a comprehensive agricultural policy for the Fifth Plan;

(b) if so, the main features of this policy; and

(c) whether this comprehensive policy would also include a price policy for different types of agricultural produce and their relationship with manufactured articles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). Agricultural policy for the Fifth Plan is reflected in the strategy, targets and programmes of agricultural development indicated in the Draft Fifth Five Year Plan Document brought out by the Planning Commission.

The two strategic goals that the country has set for itself are removal of poverty and attainment of economic self-reliance. The Fifth Five Year Plan derives its basic inspiration from these objectives.

The rate of growth of output in the Agriculture Sector envisaged for the Fifth Plan period is 4.67 per cent per annum. The fulfilment of the target will make the country not only self-sufficient in respect of foodgrains, but also leave a cushion for building a buffer stock. The dimensions of growth in commercial crops envisaged in the Plan are such as to take care of both indigenous and export requirements. While the growth in area is expected to contribute to some extent to the targeted increase in production much greater reliance will be placed on growth in productivity. For attaining the distribution of areas over different crops, various policies relating to pricing, "localisation" of irrigation and other aspects of crop planning will be given pointed attention. or achieving the requisite growth in crop yields, a multi-pronged effort will be undertaken. The main elements of this effort will be: intensification of problem-oriented research, strengthening of agricultural extension and administration, increasing the area under high yielding varieties, increasing the consumption of chemical fertilisers and improving the efficiency of fertiliser use, development of local manurial resources, water management, expansion in institutional credit, development of post-harvest facilities, substantial expansion of storage to support marketing infra-structure, effective operation of an agricultural price policy which provides for requisite incentive for sustained and higher production and execution of land reform measures. The Fifth Plan provides for a policy of selective mechanization aimed at increasing cropping intensity and farm productivity. One of the endeavours of the Fifth Plan would be to ensure a substantial increase in the flow of institutional production credit to small farmers, marginal farmers and other weaker sections of the society.

The main objective underlying animal husbandry and dairying, fisheries and forestry is to achieve substantial increase in production and open up widely extended opportunities for small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers to get employment

and increased incomes from these sources.

The strategy in the sphere of land reforms includes a programme for institutional changes, concrete operational programmes, implementation machinery, peoples' involvement and the allocation of adequate funds for financing the plan.

The Fifth Plan aims at raising the per capita income of about 25 million of the poorest rural households. An important direction of effort will be towards intensification and enlargement of special programmes specifically designed for the weaker sections, including tribals and the weaker areas in the agricultural economy.

A large-scale programme of integrated area development in the command of 50 major irrigation projects covering about 14 million hectares is envisaged to be carried out in the Fifth Plan. For improving utilisation of irrigation potential, a number of policies of measures, both in the realm of irrigation engineering and agricultural development are proposed.

(c) The main consideration intended to be kept in view in the formulation of policy governing agricultural prices for the Fifth Plan are: (i) to be an effective complementary measure to other programmes for increasing agricultural production; (ii) to induce the farmer to plan the production of different crops in line with the estimated demand through manipulation of inter crop price relationship. A growing volume of procurement and distribution through public and cooperative agencies is visualised in respect of several agricultural commodities to protect the interests of consumers, particularly the vulnerable sections.

Availability of fertiliser during next Kharif crop

1712. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be

pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an estimate of the shortfall in the availability of fertilisers in the Rabi and Kharif seasons of 1972-74;

(b) if so, the magnitude of this shortfall; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the requirements of agriculture, especially the next Kharif season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The shortfall in the availability of fertilisers, was about 13 per cent for Kharif 73 season and about 39 per cent for the Rabi 73-74 season.

(c) Efforts are being made to maximise the production of indigenous fertiliser manufacturing units and to import the required quantities of fertilisers. As per current indications, it will be possible to meet the requirements of fertilisers for Kharif 74 more or less in full.

रूस से गेहूँ लेकर आने वाले जहाजों को बन्दरगाहों में प्राथमिकता देना

1713. श्री कूल चन्द वर्मा : क्या नौबहन और परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) केन्द्रीय सरकार ने रूस से गेहूँ लेकर आने वाले जहाजों की बन्दरगाहों पर प्राथमिकता देने के लिए आदेश दिए हैं, और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इस बारे में तथ्य क्या हैं ?