

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 ?