

Research on the effect of contour bunding and contour furrowing so as to prevent the loss of soil fertility and conserve moisture and thereby increase the animal carrying capacity of the pastures is in progress in different areas of Western Rajasthan. Studies are also in progress at the various centres of the Central Arid Zone Research Institute to assess the benefit to cattle under various methods of pasture improvement. These include experiments on rotational grazing and the determination of the carrying capacity of the pastures. These indicate improvement in soil and moisture conservation status of the pasture lands and the carrying capacity of the various types of natural grasslands in the Arid Zone. The results of the experiments from deferment-cum-rotational grazing have indicated that continuous grazing at the control rate according to the carrying capacity of the pasture was found to be better than other system of management.

#### IMPORT OF FERTILIZERS

1614. SHRI LOBO PRABHU : Will the Minister of FOOD & AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that against the estimated consumption for 1968-69 of 1.9 million tonnes, there is a plan for import of 1.095 million tonnes of Fertilisers, notwithstanding the estimated indigenous production of 1.1 million tonnes and carry over on the 1st April, 1968 of 1.1 million tonnes; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the import ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The position in regard to estimated consumption, imports and carry-over stock during 1968-69 is as under :—

(000 tonnes)

1968-69	N	P	K
Targets of consumption . . . . .	1,700	650	450
Carry-over stocks as on 1-4-68 . . . . .	297	180	159
Indigenous production (estimates) . . . . .	650	320	..
Imports arranged/likely . . . . .	1,045	136	213
Total availability . . . . .	1,992	636	372

Because of the seasonality of fertiliser application substantial stocks have to be carried over for the crop seasons so as to ensure their timely availability near the consuming centres. Again, there is likelihood of shortfalls in the estimates of indigenous production, indicated above. Imports to the extent made were essential for meeting the requirements of the farmers.

#### FERTILIZER CONSUMPTION

1615. SHRI LOBO PRABHU : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of fertilisers which are more than eight months old in stock which have lost their full potentials; and

(b) whether this has developed sales resistance or whether there are any other factors for accumulation of stocks in some areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected from State Governments and other sources. It will be placed on the table of the Sabha as soon as received.

#### TRAINING OF FARMERS IN INTENSIVE CULTIVATION PROGRAMME

1616. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to seek the help of business houses for training of about 20 million farmers who will be involved in intensive cultivation programme of all crops during the Fourth Plan; and

(b) if so, the main details of the proposals ?