

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (c) The Central Government has received no information from any of the State Governments regarding damage to sugarcane crop due to heavy rains and floods. The production of sugar is, however, being monitored on weekly basis and the sugar production during the current sugar season (Oct. - Sept.) 1998-99 (as on 15th January) was 51.72 lakh tonnes (provisional) as against the sugar production of 46.62 lakh tonnes (provisional) during the corresponding period of the last sugar season.

[Translation]

Fertilizer Subsidy

175. SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to curtail the fertilizer subsidy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government allow the manufacturers to fix product prices depending on the production of cost; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) :

(a) and (b) It has been the endeavour of the Government to provide fertilizers to farmers at an affordable price while keeping subsidy within reasonable limits.

(c) and (d) Price of urea is statutorily fixed by the Government. Decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers are required to be sold as per the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) fixed by the Government.

[English]

Indira Awas Yojana

176. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any schemes, other than Indira Awas Yojana, to solve the housing problem in rural India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above question does not arise.

Import of Potash

177. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether import of Potash this year created artificial scarcity, and the cultivators are forced to procure potash at high price;

(b) if so, whether full quantity of potash imported by the Government is handed over to businessmen;

(c) if so, whether the Central Organisations like IPL or Cooperatives Organisation BENFED received any quantity of potash for procurement by the cultivators at the reasonable price; and

(d) if so, the quantity of potash allotted to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) :

(a) to (d) Muriate of Potash (MOP) has been decontrolled since August, 1992 and its imports decanalised since June, 1993. There have been no imports of MOP on Government account nor any allocation made of MOP since then. The imports are made freely on private trade account within the framework of the Concession Scheme of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

During the current Rabi season, nearly 14.93 lakh metric tonnes (LMTs) of MOP has been imported. Of this, 6.40 LMTs has been brought by Indian Potash Limited (IPL) and remaining by others. There have been no shortages reported of MOP by any of the States except West Bengal where shortages for a brief spell were experienced in November '98 on account of cyclonic storm on Eastern Coast which affected the discharge and despatches of MOP from Vizag port.

Rehabilitation of Expired Security Personnel's Families

178. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of security personnel expired during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of dependants of these personnel provided job and rehabilitation facilities;