

Fertilizer Pricing Policy

*96. DR. M. JAGANNATH :
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any committee was appointed by the Government to make recommendations and suggest fertilizer pricing policy to the Government;

(b) whether the report has since been submitted to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) A High Powered Fertilizer Pricing Policy Review Committee has been constituted to review the existing system of subsidization of urea and suggest an alternative, broad based, scientific and transparent methodology.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Under-Trials in Jails

*97. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission in its endeavour to improve Jail conditions has expressed concern about the large percentage of under-trials languishing in jails without being formally brought to trial and pressed for their trial expeditiously; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) In its endeavour to improve the prison conditions, the National Human Rights Commission has been emphasising the need for an expeditious disposal of cases of under-trials, languishing in jails. The Commission in their Annual Report for the year 1995-96 has remarked that the issue of overcrowding in the prison is of a serious concern and the conditions in jails are made worse by the large percentage of under-trials in jails.

With a view to reducing the number of under-trial prisoners, the Commission requested Inspector Generals of Prison all over the country to facilitate the implementation of the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in 'Common Cause' Vs. Union of India and Others, which inter-alia directed the Registrars of High Courts to ensure that certain categories of under-trial prisoners whose cases have been pending in the Courts or whose trial has not commenced for specified periods, may be released on bail or personal bond or discharged or acquitted. However, no specific directions have been issued to the Government by the Commission, in this regard.

(b) Although 'Prison' is a State subject under the Constitution of India, the Central Government have always expressed their concern about the large number of under-trials languishing in jails without being formally brought to trial. The Central Government while interacting with the State Governments has stressed upon them to reduce the number of under-trials and has been suggesting various steps, like strengthening the infrastructure relating to the Administration of Criminal Justice and Prison Management, the liberalisation of bail procedure, speedy trial of cases, etc.

Loss of Life and Property Due to Earthquake in M.P.

*98. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH
GAEKWAD :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a devastating earthquake has shaken Jabalpur area in May, 1997;

(b) if so, the extent of loss of life and property suffered as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Central Government to give assistance for providing help and rehabilitation to the victims of this earthquake;

(d) if so, the total amount of Central aid given to the State Government;

(e) whether Narmada Valley and big dams are also considered unsafe in view of this earthquake; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to avoid such tragedy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) According to the reports received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Earthquake of magnitude 6.00 in the richter scale which hit Jabalpur and surrounding areas claimed 39 human lives, injured 397 persons and damaged about 1.65 lakh houses.

(c) and (d) Government of India have already released to the State Government its entire share of State Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1997-98 amounting to Rs. 40.42 crores, including advance release of Rs. 20.21 crores representing the 3rd and 4th quarterly instalments, in the wake of the earthquake. A memorandum was received from the State Government seeking additional assistance of Rs. 230.77 crores from National Fund for Calamity Relief for relief and rehabilitation measures. Based on the report of a Central Team which visited the affected areas, the National Calamity Relief Committee approved an additional assistance of Rs. 45.26 crores from the National Fund for Calamity Relief, which has been released on 26th June, 1997.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The Dams are designed taking into consideration the relevant Seismicity of the area which is also reviewed from time to time by a National Committee for Seismic Design Parameters.

[Translation]

Production of Milk in National Dairy Farms

*99. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual production of milk in the entire country and in the dairy farms of the National Dairy Research Institute during 1979-1995;

(b) whether the production of milk rapidly increased in the country during 1979-95 whereas the National Dairy Research Institute entrusted with the work of increasing milk production in the country showed a decline in the milk production by its dairy farms;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the scheme formulated to increase the production of milk, so far?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The annual production of milk in the country and in the National Dairy Research Institute during 1979-95 is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Yes Sir. The production of milk in the country has increased from 30.40 million tonnes in 1979-80 to 64.0 million tonnes in 1994-95. In case of the National Dairy Research Institute although the total milk production showed a decline during 1979-1995, the decline is commensurate with the reduction in number of animals in milk. However, the average yield per animal in milk per day has increased from 9.0 kg. in 1979 to 9.6 kg. in 1995.

(c) and (d) The NDRI is primarily an experimental farm, and is not operated as a commercial milk production unit. Besides State Govts. programmes and research work for improvement of cross-bred cattle at N.D.R.I., the following Central/Centrally sponsored schemes are being implemented by the Govt. of India to increase the production of milk:

- (i) Extension of Frozen Semen Technology and Progeny Testing Programme.
- (ii) National Bull Production Programme.
- (iii) Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development.
- (iv) Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases.
- (v) National Project on Rinderpest Eradication.
- (vi) Professional Efficiency Development.
- (vii) Integrated Dairy Development Programme for Non-Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas.
- (viii) Technology Mission on Dairy Development.

Statement

Total Milk Production in Country		Milk Production at National Dairy Research Institute	
Year	Production (Million Tonnes)	Year	Production (Tonnes)
1	2	3	4
1979-80	30.40	1979	2222
1980-81	31.60	1980	1965
1981-82	34.30	1981	1866
1982-83	35.80	1982	1872