

[English]

Seed Development Scheme

2496. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to introduce a seeds development scheme to take care of problems of the farmers in drought-prone areas in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, during 1994-95, an amount of Rs. 13.02 crores was released to the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh as well as National Seeds Corporation, State Farms Corporation of India and Sone Command Area Development Agency, Patna for creation of revolving fund under Central Sector Scheme for Drought Prone Areas.

Import of Fertilizers

2497. SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had imported fertilizers in the recent past;

(b) whether Government intend to import fertilizers in future as well;

(c) whether imported fertilizers are cheaper than the indigenously produced fertilizers;

(d) if not, whether any subsidy is being given to the farmers on buying the imported fertilizers; and

(e) if so, the quantum of subsidy being given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under the price, distribution and movement control. Imports of urea are made every year by the Government to bridge the gap between the assessed demand and indigenous availability. During 1996-97 (upto Feb'97), 23.28 lakh metric tonnes (LMTs) of urea has been imported on Government account. The imports of other major decontrolled fertilizers viz. DAP and MOP have been decanalised w.e.f. 17.9.1992 and 17.6.1993 respectively.

(c) to (e) The weighted average retention price of indigenously produced urea is Rs. 5434.00 per metric tonne. The weighted average C&F cost of production of urea during 1996-97 (upto Feb'97) is provisionally estimated as Rs. 7308.00 per metric tonne. The subsidy incurred on imported urea during 1996-97 is Rs. 4980.00 per metric tonne (Provisional).

Ad-hoc concession given by Government of India (Ministry of Agriculture) on both imported DAP and MOP w.e.f. 6.7.1996 has been Rs. 1500.00 per metric tonne.

Women Representative in the Wakf Board

2498. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is now women representative in the Wakf Boards in various States under the Act, 1995;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken in the matter for women's representation in the Wakf Boards?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO WALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that there is no woman member in the Wakf Boards set up/ functioning in various States under the Wakf Act, 1995.

(b) and (c) The Wakf Act, 1995 provides for establishment of a Wakf Board in each State by the State Government. The composition of the Board, as provided in the Act, is that one and not more than two members of the Boards are to be elected from each of the following electoral college consisting of :

(i) Muslim Members of Parliament from the State.

(ii) Muslim Members of the State Legislature.

(iii) Muslim Members of the Bar Council of the State, and

(iv) Mutawallis of the Wakfs having an annual income of Rs. 1 lakh and above.

The Act further provides for nomination of one and not more than two members by the State Government from following two categories :-

(i) Representative of eminent Muslim organisations.

(ii) Recognised scholars in Islamic Theology, and also an officer of the State Government not below the rank of Deputy Secretary, is to be nominated as member of the Board.

There is no bar, as such, in the Act on election and/or nomination of a lady member in a Wakf Board.

Protection of Bugyals (Alpine Pastures)

2499. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have studied the recent Allahabad High Court judgement on the protection of