

[Sh. Dau Dayal Joshi]

the fall in the production of wheat, the Government may have to import wheat this year too.

This year weather is unfavourable for Rabi crops. This year average day temperature in Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh is 80 to 120 c. This temperature is regarded more than the normal temperature for wheat production.

States like Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh produce 50 per cent wheat of the total production of country. And these states contribute 78 per cent of wheat in the central pool

Agricultural experts guess that wheat production may fall from 30 to 35 per cent in Haryana due to uncertain weather. There is a possibility of 35 to 40 per cent fall in production in Punjab. The production of wheat may fall in Uttar Pradesh in proportion to that of Haryana. The Union Ministry of Agriculture had fixed target of 560 lakh tonne this year during Rabi campaign but there is little possibility to achieve this target.

The prices of potash phosphate fertilizers have increased 1 1/2-3 times after they have been decontrolled. The farmers discontinued the use of these fertilizers due to increase in their prices and substituted it with nitrogen (ureia). It is clear that the use of fertilizers is also not balanced. 30 to 16 °c temperature is an ideal temperature for the cultivation of high yielding varieties of wheat like HD—2285, WH—291, WH—423 and Sonalika. The productivity in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh has also decreased during last two—three years, as a result the production is confined to 260 lakh tonne.

Discontentment among the farmers on production and inadequate support price is likely to have adverse impact on wheat.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to take concrete steps to check fall in

production. Along with it, subsidy on fertilizers may be restored so that the farmers may be encouraged to produce more wheat.

**(vii) Need for conversion of Katihar - Jogbani metre gauge railway line into broad gauge**

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have requested the hon. Minister of Railways for conversion of Katihar - Jogbani metre gauge line into broad gauge line several times. The demand for conversion of Katihar - Jogbani railway line which is situated on Indo—Nepal border is very important. The Ministry of Railways will get revenue worth crores of rupees after this line is converted into broad gauge line. Goods is transported to Nepal from other parts of the countries by thousands of trucks. Workers in large number go to Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Karnataka etc. every day. A large number of tourists from Nepal come to India to visit different places.

Therefore, I request that Katihar—Jogbani metre gauge line should be converted into broad gauge line immediately.

**(viii) Need to set up a mini steel plant in Ghazipur district, Uttar Pradesh.**

[Translation]

SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI (Ghazipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh, particularly Ghazipur district is a most backward district. Backwardness of the area is not likely to be removed unless a planned industrial development place there.

The district, that played an important role in the Freedom struggle has not been developed to the expectation during last 43 years. I came to know that the Central Government had consid