

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Sugarcane production in Maharashtra during 1982-83 was 313.6 lakh tonnes as against 287.8 lakh tonnes in 1981-82. During 1983-84, the production was 265.5 lakh tonnes.

(c) Climatic conditions have been primarily responsible for shortfall in production during 1983-84. Sugarcane development programmes are undertaken by the State Government. In addition to other steps, the Maharashtra Government have been advising the cooperative sugar factories to develop cane in their respective areas. Similarly, efforts are being made for the development of cane in other factory areas.

Intensive sugarcane development measures advocated include :

- (a) production and distribution of quality seed.
- (b) demonstration of improved practices of cane cultivation both for plant and ratoon cane.
- (c) plant protection measures.
- (d) training of cane development workers.
- (e) construction of link roads.

[*Translation*]

Increase in the Income of Persons Living below Poverty Line

*177. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of increase in the income of persons living below poverty line during the Sixth Five Year Plan as a result of Integrated Rural Development Programme being operated in the country;

(b) whether the increase is in consonance with the targets laid; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the deficiency ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c). Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), against a target of assisting 15 million households below the poverty line in the VIth Plan, up to January 1985, 15.4 million families had already been assisted.

The impact of the programme in terms of increase in the income would be available when the evaluation report on IRDP, under preparation by the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission will be out.

[*English*]

Production and Import of Chemical Fertilizers

*178. SHRI N.V. RATNAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the chemical fertilize produced in the country and imported from other countries during each of the last three years; and

(b) the method of distribution of such chemical fertilizers ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) The fertilizers are made available to the farmers, through the Institutional and Cooperative agencies of the States and through the private dealers net work of manufacturers and distributors, against the allocations made by the Central Government to each State/Union Territory/Commodity Boards