

the indigenous production is unable to meet the country's demand of fertilisers.

(b) and (d) The variety of fertiliser imported are mainly urea, Dia-ammonium phosphate and Muriate of Potash.

No precise figures can be indicated at this stage about the quantity and value of fertilisers to be imported as it is reviewed from time to time.

National Policy on Drought

*640. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated a National Drought Policy to prevent repetition of drought in various States every year :

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) whether Government are considering this proposal for Seventh Five Year Plan and if so, the details ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) to (d) The Drought Prone Areas Programme being implemented with the cooperation of the concerned States and also endorsed by the National Committee on the Development of Backward Areas is an expression of the National Policy in regard to long term measures to combat repetition of drought in the various States. It is proposed to continue this programme during the Seventh Five Year Plan also.

The Drought Prone Areas Programme was started during 1970-71 with the objective of restoring ecological balance and improving the productivity of land, water, livestock and human resources in identified drought prone areas. The Programme was endorsed by the National Committee on Development of Backward Areas in their report in 1981. The programme is being implemented as a Centrally sponsored scheme comprising of soil and water conservation, afforestation and pasture development, minor irrigation, dryland agriculture, livestock development etc., as an integrated area programme. These measures which are

of a permanent nature are expected to mitigate the rigours of drought and reduce the fluctuations in income caused by drought. Expenditure on this programme is shared equally by the Centre and the States and since inception an expenditure of Rs. 731.94 crores has been incurred on this programme upto January, 1985.

Damage to Foodgrains due to Non-availability of Storage Facilities

*641. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether thousands of tonnes of wheat and rice get spoiled due to non-availability of godowns and railway sheds during rainy seasons ;

(b) if so, steps being taken by the Central Warehousing Corporation to construct more godowns in the country, particularly in wheat and rice producing States and also to secure railway sheds for storing wheat and rice ;

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct godowns in Gujarat ; if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) Certain quantities of foodgrains do get damaged for want of covered storage space.

(b) The Food Corporation of India is expected to construct additional storage capacity of 15.25 lakh tonnes during 1985-86. The Central Warehousing Corporation is expected to construct storage capacity of 6.00 lakh tonnes during the current year of which 4.59 lakh tonnes is likely to be available for foodgrains. The storage capacity would be located at different centres in the country, based on the need and operational considerations.

(c) The Food Corporation of India is expected to construct storage capacity of 1.81 lakh tonnes in Gujarat during 1985-86. The Central Warehousing Corporation is expected to construct storage capacity of 0.11 lakh tonnes in Gujarat during the current year of which 0.10 lakh tonnes is likely to be available for foodgrains.