

Bhoodan Gramdan schemes are not being cultivated actually because the land which has been given to persons are poor and they on their own cannot cultivate the land without the assistance of the State Government. It is common experience that assistance is not being given and so, the land which has been distributed is not being actually cultivated, I would like to know from the Government whether any assessment has been made by the Government? Out of the land which has been distributed whether all the land is being cultivated or not?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : Sir, each State grants a certain amount every year to the Samitis. The Centre has also sent guidelines to the State Governments under the IRDP, NREP, RLEGP to allot the land donated under the Bhoodan scheme to the people living below the poverty line. Financial assistance has also been given to such people under IRDP, RLEGP, NREP, to develop the land in case they are eligible for it.

[*English*]

SHRI D.B. PATIL : Has assessment been done or not?

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : No assessment.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a matter which rests with the State Government.

**Plan to Boost Production of Fertilisers
by IFFCO**

*168. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK † :
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Limited has drawn up a corporate plan for the coming decades to boost the production of fertilisers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the plan and the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU) : (a) and (b). The Corporate Plan prepared by Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Limited for 1986-96 aims at increasing production in the existing plants by revamping and retrofitting as well as expansion of production facilities by adding a new Urea Ammonia Plant. The Corporate Plan also envisaged envisages setting up of a HDPE bag manufacturing unit. The total investment is about Rs. 2300 crores. The plan is set to be considered and approved by the Board of Directors.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked from the hon. Minister about the details of the plan drawn to boost production of fertilisers. The details have not been provided. I find that 80 per cent of the people sitting in this House claim to be the representatives of the farmers and also espouse their cause. But the fact is that the foodgrain prices are increasing at a proportionately lesser rate than the prices of fertilizers. The fertilizer prices are increasing sharply and its quality is declining. In this connection, I would like to know the Statewise stock of imported fertilizers with the Fertiliser Corporation of India? Is it true that the productive capacity of this fertilizer kept in stock has exhausted? What was the amount of foreign exchange spent on importing this fertilizer in stock and what steps have the Government taken for the disposal of this harmful stock? Along with it, it has also come to our notice that adulterated fertilizer has been supplied to our farmers. What measures do the Government propose to take in this regard? How many cases have been registered and whether the agency holders have been penalised in regard to those cases or not?

[*English*]

SHRI R. PRABHU : I do not agree that the fertilizers prices have been on the increase because the fertilizers price to-day is the same as on 1st July, 1981 and it is selling at Rs. 2350 per tonne of Urea.

This question pertains to long term and short term plan of IFFCO.

The hon. Member wants to know the quantity imported and the quantity in stock to-day. I do not have the figures on hand. If the hon. Member wants, I can send those figures to him.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to know the quantity which has been imported. I am only asking about the quantity in stock today and the hon. Minister should know about it as it is a very important issue.

My second supplementary is whether any difficulty was experienced in the supply of fertilizers to the various states according to their needs during 1984-85 and 1985-86 ? Is the Government considering any scheme to provide loans to the States on interest in order to have an adequate stock of fertilisers and other inputs ? If there is some such scheme then what are its details ?

[English]

SHRI R. PRABHU : Sir, I would again like to repeat that the hon. Member is asking question which has nothing to do with the question he has given today. But if he wants to know various fertilisers that are consumed and what fertiliser is being sent to the various States, that is not available readily. I will send it to him if he so desires. As far as the question of imported fertiliser is concerned, I would not be able to give the stock off hand. But I can tell him that there is pipeline stock of indigenous and imported fertiliser which is about 30 lakh tonnes of nutrient as of today.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : What about the imported fertiliser ?

SHRI R. PRABHU : I don't have the figures with me because the question is not about that.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir,

I want to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether many complaints have been received from the farmers that the fertilizers were not properly packed on account of which the farmers were put to loss because of the short quantity of fertiliser. Consequently, agricultural production has also suffered. What steps the Government propose to take in this connection in order to avoid this loss to the farmers ?

[English]

SHRI R. PRABHU : We have not received many complaints from the farmers that the fertilisers were not properly packed. We have two types of packing. One is the packing in jute bags and the other is the HDP bag packing and I can assure the hon. Member that if there are any complaints that come to our notice, we will take corrective action.

SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Sir, fertiliser is not readily available in many parts of the country. Would the Minister be kind enough to let us know what action is being taken in this respect to maintain equal distribution of fertiliser ?

SHRI R. PRABHU : The position today is that there is too much fertiliser. Fertiliser is available in most parts of the country and if there is any specific complaint that the hon. Member would like to bring to our notice, we would see in the country that the fertiliser is made available in those districts.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : The hon. Minister has stated that there is too much fertiliser in the country. I take it that this means there is a glut of fertiliser. Is it not a fact that the amount of about Rs. 2000 crores shown as subsidy for fertiliser is only due to the fact that the inefficiency of the fertiliser producing factories is being rewarded by way of ensuring a 12½% return on their investment. Whether they work efficiently or not. In fact the subsidy does not benefit the farmers at all. It is for the industry. Secondly, I would like to know whether it is a fact that the carrying cost of fertiliser by the distributing agencies is about Rs. 50 per bag per year. Would the Government consider a proposal to give

fertiliser from their stock to farmers on deferred payment system so that fertiliser can be utilised by the farmers for increasing production as also they can pay the price later on thereby the Government would not suffer any loss? It is only the amount which they have to pay to handling agencies and that will accrue to the farmers without any additional cost on Government and this amount of subsidy will come down.

SHRI R. PRABHU : The hon. Member was the Minister for Agriculture a couple of years ago and I can assure him that the situation as of today is not changed.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : But he himself has replied with retrospective effect.

SHRI R. PRABHU : The situation today is that the fertiliser industry has not changed much since he was the Minister. I agree with him that today the subsidy is about Rs. 2000 crores. With regard to inefficiency, I can assure him that it is not being rewarded. As far as 12½% return is concerned, I would like to clarify that 12% is presently the post tax return for the industry which is the same for most industries which have administered prices.

As far as the suggestion that we should give credit to the farmers is concerned, if he has any specific proposals, he being a knowledgeable man, I would be happy if he could write to us. We will examine them.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, instead of a reply, he only got a certificate that he is a knowledgeable man. That is all.

MR. SPEAKER : Is not that enough?

PROF. N.G. RANGA : He said, it will be examined.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : What he has said is correct. Something more should be said. But giving certificate is correct.

MR. SPEAKER : Something is better than nothing!

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Sir, in the recent budget also the duty on imported fertilizer equipments has been raised. I want to know from the hon. Minister with regard to the target, how much of target we have fixed in India with regard to the fertilizer production and whether we are self-sufficient now or whether we are importing fertilizer from other countries, how much we are importing and how much we are producing.

SHRI R. PRABHU : Sir, as far as the recent imposition of customs duty in the recent Budget is concerned, a customs duty of 15 per cent has been imposed on imported capital goods. The intention for imposing this customs duty is not necessarily to increase the revenue of the Government, but to see that the capital goods industry in the country is encouraged and people who are putting up new fertilizer plants are encouraged to buy local equipment rather than imported equipment.

As far as the question about the local production and imported fertilizer is concerned, today India is not really self-sufficient in fertilizer. Our import of fertilizer is about 25 per cent every year. This year's production target is about 69.5 lakh tonnes of nutrients. I would not be able to give figures for import. I can give last year's figures, but I would not be able to give this year's figures, they are in the process of being finalised.

Use of Fertilizer to Manufacture Explosives

*170. **SHRI AKHTAR HASAN† :**
SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether sub-standard Calcium Ammonium Nitrate stored by the Food Corporation of India in its godowns is clandestinely being used to make explosives; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE