

Waterlogging in the Capital due to Heavy rains

*12. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA:
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of colonies and low lying areas and important roads in the Capital have been waterlogged as a result of recent heavy rains;

(b) whether there is always knee-deep water under Tilak Bridge and Minto Bridge whenever there is heavy rain, which causes traffic dislocation; and

(c) if so, action taken by Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) The Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has reported that except in some pockets of unauthorised colonies situated mostly in low lying areas and having no planned drainage system, there were no complaints of water-logging during the recent heavy rains. In a few roads, some water did accumulate for a very short duration.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Arrangements are made to pump out water from those areas which get waterlogged during rains. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has set up control rooms to attend to complaints of water logging etc.

Procurement of Wheat

*13. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI B. D. SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICUL-TURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat procurement has been very slow and

that the procurement target is not likely to be achieved;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, stating the names of the States where the procurement of wheat has been unsatisfactory; and

(c) the anticipated shortfall in the procurement target and its likely impact on the buffer stock and the public distribution system vis-a-vis wheat prices?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a). As against a target of 9.5 million tonnes envisaged, the actual procurement so far in the current season comes to 6.5 million tonnes. Although this is higher than last year, the target may not be achieved.

(b) The main reasons for low procurement of wheat viz-a-viz target can be attributed to offers of higher prices by trade as compared to procurement price fixed by the Government and withholding of wheat stocks by traders and producers.

The procurement targets were fixed for the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and Maharashtra. No procurement has been reported from Gujarat and Maharashtra. In other States, it is lower than the targets.

(c) The shortfall upto now is about 3 million tonnes. It is not possible to state at this stage what the final figure will be at the end of the year. As on 1.7.1981, the total wheat stock available with Government agencies was about 7.7 million tonnes.

The anticipated shortfall in procurement has not disturbed the functioning of public distribution system since enough stocks are available for current consumption based on reasonable requirements of the States. The all-India Wholesale Price Index

for wheat declined by about 3 per cent between March, 1981 and May, 1981. From June, 1981, the wheat prices started looking up and were 2 per cent higher on 25.7.1981 as compared with May, 1981.

Supply of sub-standard Insecticides

*14. SHRI MOHD. ASRAR AHMAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that considerable quantities of sub-standard insecticides find their way to the farmers while most of the defaulters go practically scot-free;

(b) has any step been taken by the State Governments to rigorously enforce the provisions of the Central Insecticides Act, 1971;

(c) whether Government propose to make suitable amendments to the Central Insecticides Act, 1981 and rules made thereunder;

(d) whether any expert survey team was appointed by his Ministry to go into the enforcement of the Central Insecticides Act, 1971;

(e) whether any report has been submitted by it to the Ministry or to the Government and if so, when and what are its findings;

(f) whether Government will lay on the Table of the House a copy of the report of the Expert Survey Team; and

(g) what action is proposed to be taken in the light of the findings of the team?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) to (g). Government

are aware that sub-standard insecticides find their way to the farmers. In order to assess the situation and the quality of enforcement of the Insecticides Act by the State Governments, five Survey Teams on status of quality control of pesticides were constituted in October, 1980 for different zones. The reports from four Zonal Teams have so far been received and are under examination. The copies of the reports will be placed on the Table of the House.

The general findings of the Teams is that there is need for improving the quality of enforcement of the Insecticides Act. Based on the details examination of the reports and suggestions received from the State Governments and other quarters, amendments to the Insecticides Act and the Rules thereunder will be considered.

Sanction for Drought Relief Work to Karnataka

*15. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has approached the Central Government for sanctioning some amounts for Drought Relief Work in that State; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the basis of the recommendations of the Central Teams which visited Karnataka, once during 1980-81, and again during 1981-82, ceilings of expenditure of Rs. 6.65 crores during