

1983-84. The national targets are fixed taking into consideration various factors including production potential and overall consumption requirements.

(b) The import of pulses during 1982-83 (April to September, 1982) was of the order of 28.5 thousand tonnes valued at Rs. 884.7 lakhs. Data on imports of pulses beyond September, 1982 are not yet available.

(c) The demand for pulses in 2001 A.D. is projected to be between 17 to 18 million tonnes. Steps taken to boost the production of pulses are as under :

- (i) Bringing additional area under (a) short duration varieties of urd, moong, etc. in rice fallows by utilising the residual moisture in rabi season; and (b) in summer season with irrigation after oilseeds, sugarcane, potato and wheat;
- (ii) Introduction of pulses crops in irrigated farming systems;
- (iii) Inter-cropping of arhar in soyabean, bajra, cotton, sugarcane and groundnut both under irrigated and unirrigated conditions;
- (iv) Multiplication and use of improved pulses seeds;
- (v) Adoption of plant protection measures;
- (vi) Use of phosphatic fertilisers and rhizobial culture;
- (vii) Improved post-harvest technology;
- (viii) Public policies including pricing and marketing of pulses.

Rise in Prices of Vegetables and Fruits in the Capital

*113. SHRI N.E. HORO : Will the Minister of *Agriculture* be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that for reasons unknown, the prices of seasonal vegetables seemed to have skyrocketed this year and in some parts of the Capital no seasonal vegetables are available for less than Rs. 6 a kg;

(b) whether this trend is also noticeable in the rates of fruits this year; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) :

(a) and (b) The prices of seasonal vegetables and fruits have not skyrocketed this year in the Capital. Vegetables are generally available in the Capital at retail prices much below Rs. 6 a kg.

(c) Does not arise.

Floods Caused by D.V.C. in West Bengal by Releasing Water from its Dams

*114. SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent havoc caused by the D.V.C. in West Bengal by releasing water from its dams, as it did so many times in the past, in the midst of heavy rain and flood; and

(b) if so, steps taken so far by Government as permanent remedial measures for stopping its recurrence ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :

(a) and (b) : The severe floods that have occurred in Damodar Valley were