

Tractors Lying Idle

*96. SHRI ISHAQUE SAMBHALLI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 50,000 tractors are either lying idle or are not fully utilized for want of spare parts; and

(b) if so, State-wise break-up thereof and the period since when lying idle and the steps being taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the Sabha. It may, however, be stated that according to the reports received so far, there is no general shortage of spare parts in the country although some tractors are reported to be lying idle in 2 or 3 States.

Shortfall in Availability of Fertilizers and their Diversion to Cash Crops

*97. SHRI P. GANGADEB:

SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the current agricultural year fertilizer supplies are estimated to fall 28 per cent short of their optimum use required for increased agricultural production;

(b) if so, whether this estimate was worked out prior to the steep fertilizer price hike in June last; and

(c) whether there are any indications that some diversion of fertilizers from foodgrains to cash crops has taken place; and if so, facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) The agronomic requirement of all the States for Kharif '74 and Rabi '74-75 was originally estimated at 41.56 lakh tonnes of nutrients.

These requirements, however, underwent substantial downward changes during the year because of adverse seasonal conditions which hit many of the States during Kharif '74 and Rabi '74-75. As regards supplies, during Kharif '74-75, the supplies were over 81 per cent even against the original estimated requirements. There was some shortfall in supplies as against requirements for Rabi '74-75. But as mentioned earlier, this was mainly due to the fact that some of the States could not lift the quantities allotted to them because of unfavourable seasonable conditions like drought, floods, etc.

(b) The fertiliser requirements for each year of the Fifth Plan were estimated before the commencement of the Fifth Plan period. However, a detailed assessment of requirements is made at the beginning of each season. For Kharif '74, this detailed assessment was made in January '74 and for Rabi '74-75, the assessment was made in July '74.

(c) There has been no appreciable diversion of fertiliser from foodgrains to cash crops.

Project Report on Vizhinjon Fishing Harbour, Kerala

*98. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala State Government have submitted a project report for the second stage of Vizhinjon Fishing Harbour Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 295 lakhs;

(b) whether the Union Government are aware of the necessity for the immediate commencement of the work on this project in view of the accretion of sand on the North Western side;

(c) if so, the time by which the final decision on this project is likely to be taken; and

(d) the total assistance given so far for the first stage of this project