

or devising time-saving implements as has been mentioned in the statement of the Hon. Minister and if so, whether it has been experimented upon on a pilot basis and, if so, what results? Will a further arrangement have on dry farming methods? I would also like to know whether evolving drought resistant seeds is also one of the programmes or one of the items of the agreement with Canada.

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: Yes, Sir, all the points which the Hon. Member has mentioned form part of the projects. At present we have 23 research projects distributed all over the country and we are carrying out experiments in regard to implements, water, harvesting, seeds which are resistant to drought etc. All these methods are being worked out. It is a time-consuming process, and it is being utilised for the best interests of the farmers.

श्री राम कंवर : जो छोटे किसान हैं उन्होंने अपने कुओं में बिजली लगाई है. द्यूबवैल लगवाए हैं। अब उसका जो मिनिमम चार्ज है उसको भी वे नहीं दे पाते हैं इस वास्ते कि उनकी पैदावार बहुत कम होती है। इस वास्ते उन्होंने कुओं पर से बिजली कटवानी शुरू कर दी है और वे समझते हैं कि बलों से खेती करना और पानी निकालना ज्यादा फायदेमन्द रहेगा। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार कोई इस तरह का प्रबन्ध करने जा रही है ताकि उनको सिंचाई सुविधा सस्ते में उपलब्ध हो सके और इस की सारी व्यवस्था सरकारी तौर पर की जाए।

श्री शाहनवाज खां : ये मेनली रिसर्च प्राजेक्ट्स हैं। अलहदा अलहदा किसानों के खेतों में द्यूदवैल से फार्मिंग वगैरह का जो

इल्लजाम करने की बात है वह तो हालात के ऊपर डिपेंड करता है, कहां द्यूबवैल लग सकते हैं, कहां नहीं लग सकते हैं और क्या क्या तरीका इस्तेमाल हो सकता है इस सब की छानबीन की जा रही है।

Norwegian Equipment for Fishing

*527. **SHRI P. GANGADEB:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Norway is to give India equipment for fishing;

(b) if so, whether any plan of operation was signed in Delhi on the 26th March, 1976 in this regard; and

(c) if so, broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The broad features of the Plan of Operation signed between the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD) on 26th March, 1976 were that, within the limit of 3.4 million Norwegian Kroners appropriated for the fiscal year 1975 by the Norwegian Government, NORAD would arrange for the purchase, insurance and transport to India 25 items of fishing equipment/spares free of cost. These equipments/spares are being obtained for the use of various Central Fisheries Institutions and State Fisheries Departments in their various fisheries developmental and exploratory fisheries activities.

SHRI P. GANGADEB: Since Norwegian fishing trawlers are not got but, instead, equipments are purchased, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the distinguishing features of these fishing equipment and spares and whether they will suit the Indian conditions in their operational work and also whether technical assistance has been given along with them and if so on what conditions and to which of the States the equipment are proposed to be sent for utilisation.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Only such equipment which is useful to us is naturally asked for from the Norwegian Government.

As far as allotment to the various States is concerned, the Government of India makes the allotment. Of course, as compared to our overall plan of fisheries development, this constitutes a very small portion. But we are very grateful to the Norwegian Government for their assistance in this particular field.

SHRI P. GANGADEB: I would like to ask what are the reasons why we have not been manufacturing these equipment and also fishing trawlers in India in spite of our broad-based and first class engineering structure that exists today.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: We are encouraging indigenous production of trawlers in the country, and various public sector and private sector units are engaged in the manufacture of trawlers and other agricultural equipment. In fact, in regard to imports of material or equipment, the DGTD are considering this position, so that the domestic production, indigenous production, is not in any way affected adversely.

Wheat price and procurement policy

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*528. **SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE:**

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:

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

(a) whether many States differ on wheat prices and procurement policy; and

(b) if so, facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). Based on the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission and the discussions held with the Chief Ministers/Food Ministers of the major wheat producing States, the procurement price for all varieties of wheat was maintained by the Government of India at Rs. 105 per quintal and this has been adopted by all the State Governments. The policy of maximising procurement has also been accepted by the States, but it has been left to the State Governments to adopt the mode of procurement best suited to their local conditions.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: Could I know what is Government's reaction to the National Agricultural Commission's recommendation of compulsory graded levy on producers and millers as a major operational instrument of procuring about 12 million tonnes this year in order to run our public distribution system? May I know if the States have agreed not to lower the procurement targets fixed?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: As far as the procurement targets are concerned, by and large, the targets which have been accepted by the Government are very close to the targets which have been recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission. Only in the case of Jammu and Kashmir, instead of 20,000 tonnes, it has been made 18,000 tonnes because of the adverse weather conditions there, but that does not make much difference because the overall procurement target of 51-52 lakh tonnes stands.

As far as the mode of procurement is concerned, our general experience in India shows that effective combi-