

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE Have they been taken back ?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR . they have been

Despatch of Fertilisers to Bihar for Rabi Season

*161. SHRI N. F. HORO Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether Union Government have sent fertilizers to meet the requirements of cultivators during the rabi season in Bihar due to the floods, and

(b) if so, the quantum and date of despatch ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE) : (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the table of the Sabha

Statement

(a) Yes.

(b) In the Zonal Conference held in April, 1971, the requirements of fertiliser for Bihar for Rabi 1971-72 were indicated as 1,10,000 tonnes of nutrients. Out of this about 36,800 tonnes i.e. about 33% was to be supplied by the Central Fertiliser Pool and the balance about 67% of the requirement was to be met from the supplies direct from the domestic manufacturers. The requirements of the Pool fertilisers in Bihar for the Rabi season is met through allotments by the Government of India against the October-December and January-March quarters. Part of Rabi requirements for stock-building are also met through the allotment made in the July-September quarter. The requirements of fertiliser for Bihar for the Rabi season indicated in the Zonal Conference held in April, 1971 were, to a certain extent, revised by the State Government in August, 1971. In pursuance of this, allotments upto October-December 1971 quarter have already been issued and those for January-March, 1972 quarter will be issued in due course.

Taking 2/3 of the July-September, 1971 quarter and whole of October-December 1971 quarter as part of the Rabi allotment and correspondingly taking the supplies made from August to October, 1971, the position of supplies in relation to requirements, allotments and despatch instructions is given in Statement 'I'.

It will be seen from the Statement 'I' that the supply of Urea was satisfactory. In fact, the Government of India specially kept considerable quantity of Urea available in the godowns of the Bihar State Warehousing Corporation to help distribution in Bihar and the following quantities of Urea were available in these godowns at the end of the August, September and October, 1971 —

	Committed	Uncommitted	Total
31 8 71	2,817	9,995	12,873
3 9 71	2,513	6,355	8,886
31 10 71	2,318	2,682	5,000

The proportion of supply of DAP and CAN was low being 49% and 37% respectively. In the case of CAN this was mainly due to difficulty in procurement from abroad. Two shipments are now expected and the requirements of Bihar Govt. are expected to be met shortly. It may be added that it is the policy of the Government to encourage the use of Urea in place of CAN as the former is a better fertiliser and will also be domestically produced in future. As far as DAP is concerned, this was due partly to difficulties in procurement from abroad and largely due to difficulties in rail movement from Calcutta and Visakhapatnam on account of floods and other difficult conditions in the eastern sector. The Govt. of India specially gave sanction for road movement at the cost of the Govt. of India from Calcutta to destinations in Bihar up to 1,000 kms and in respect of despatches from Visakhapatnam for 500 kms beyond unrestricted rail-heads. This facility, however, could be utilised by the State Govt. only in a limited way on account of their difficulties in arranging trucks, because of the general shortage of trucks in the eastern region resulting from difficult conditions prevailing in that area.

STATEMENT I

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Kind of fertilizer	Requirements for Rabi 71-72 as given in April 1971	Requirements for rabi 71-72 as revised in Aug. 1971	2/3rd of Qtr. allotted in July-Sept. 1971 quarter	Qtr. allotted in Oct., Dec. 71 quarter	Total Qtr. allotted for Rabi 71-72	2/3rd of DIS given for July-Sept. 71 quarter	DIS given for Oct.-Dec. 71 quarter	Total DIS received for Rabi 71-72	Supply made from Aug. 19 Oct. 71 (4190 MTR rate policy)	Approximate percentage of supply in respect of fertilizer
Ammonium Sulphate	75,000	10,000	—	8,000	8,000	—	—	—	—	—
Urea	55,000	55,000	20,000	55,000	75,000	4,200	—	4,200	8,577	More than 100%
CAN	3,000	15,000	6,666	—	6,666	7,000	—	7,000	2,572	87%
DDP	30,000	50,000	8,000	32,500	40,000	8,300	—	8,300	3,275	40%

NOTE: Supplies shown in column 10, comprise total physical supplies made during the period including those against earlier allotments and Dispatch instructions.

SHRI N. E. HORO : In this statement, it is said that there were two difficulties, one of procuring fertilisers from abroad and the other of movement inside. What have Government so far done to remove those difficulties after the question of supply of fertilisers to Bihar was taken up.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : What I have explained has to be appreciated properly. There is no shortage of nitrogenous fertilisers in the country as a whole, including Bihar. Only particular types of nitrogenous fertilisers like ammonium sulphate and CAN are not available. All the world over much production of this type of fertilisers is not taking place as in the past and urea is a much better fertiliser.

As for Bihar, their difficulty has been to get a physically the allotments already made from Calcutta and Vizag. There has been some transport difficulty experienced by the Bihar Government. We told the Bihar Government that we were prepared to reimburse them if they could transport by trucks. Even the expenditure on transport of fertiliser upto 1,000 kms. from Calcutta would be reimbursed. The Bihar Government is having some difficulties in arranging trucks. We have taken it up with them. They should, if necessary requisition trucks and see that fertilisers, are transported from Calcutta Stocks are there.

SHRI N. E. HORO : In order to meet these difficulties, will the Government consider stocking these fertilisers in warehouses in places like Patna, so that this question of transport does not arise at the time when the need is felt? will they consider this proposal?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : The hon. Member is right. That has been our policy—stocking in the States. Even in

Bihar, some stocks of urea have been kept available throughout which have not been fully utilized.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY : From the statement we find that a short term loan of Rs. 570 lakhs has been sanctioned especially because of drought conditions. Nowhere there is mention of flood conditions, we understand that nothing has been sanctioned for the flood areas, as we find from experience that in Bihar, at the time of the rabi sowing season, there is dearth of fertilisers and the peasants are running from door to door, from pillar to post, and they are not finding fertilisers?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : As I said, we requested the Bihar Government to make arrangements two or three months earlier, but somehow or other —

SHRI D. N. TIWARY : At that time, there was no flood.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : After floods also, we made allotments. We told them that the stocks are available at Calcutta and Vishakapatnam and said "Please transport it and we shall also reimburse to you any expenditure." But somehow or other, the Bihar Government could not organise the transport. We have repeatedly taken it up with the Bihar Government. We are aware of the local difficulties. But the local arrangements have to be made by the State Governments. But we can help by way of money, assistance, etc., and that has been done in the case of Bihar.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY : The question is about floods, and you are replying about drought. Have you made any arrangements? I want to know.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : The question is about fertilisers to meet the requirements of the cultivators in the

rabi season in Bihar due to floods. Most of the rabi areas of Bihar were affected. Over and above that, our arrangements cover flood areas also.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY : In the answer, it is only about drought.

श्री नरसिंह नारायण पाण्डे : मैंने स्वयं माननीय खाद्य मंत्री को इस आशय का तार भेजा था कि उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार के किसी गोदाम में एक छुट्टाक भी खाद या बीज नहीं है। रबी अभियान को कामयाब बनाने के लिए हिन्दुस्तान के किसी भी कोने से खाद का बीज उपलब्ध नहीं किया गया है। पत्र के बाद मंत्री महोदय ने यह स्टेटमेंट दिया था कि सरकार बीज का प्रबन्ध करेगी। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस सम्बन्ध में जो डिफिकल्टीज हैं, उनको दूर करने के लिए मंत्री महोदय ने क्या कदम उठाये हैं, जिस से खाद और बीज उपलब्ध किया जा सके।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : I must make it clear, and I want the hon. Member to appreciate this. Internal distribution in the respective State is entirely the responsibility of the State Governments. What we can do is to make the quantities available to them, but road transport, etc., have to be organised by the respective State Governments. Recently, due to defence movement and a number of other priority movements, there have been some difficulties experienced by the State Governments. There has not been any deliberate default even on the part of the State Government; due to the present situation, there was dislocation; first, due to floods. Thereafter, because of the security and a number of other reasons including railway move-

ment, wagons were not available. But we are now making all efforts. Therefore, I said that we are prepared to help the Bihar Government by making a substantial amount available to them. If they are required to incur additional expenditure by way of transport, there is no difficulty and we shall re-imburse this. The hon. Member said that stocks are not available. May I tell him that even now I checked up today before replying to this question urea stocks were available in Government of India Godowns in Bihar which were not fully utilised....(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not interrupt.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Special trains are being run to several states including U. P. The hon. Member was asking me about Uttar Pradesh. I can also point out, because it is a national problem, we requested the U.P. Government to say whether they were prepared to take the fertilisers in open wagons because covered wagons are not available with the railways. But the Uttar Pradesh Government took nearly a month to agree to this. I personally went to Lucknow and requested the Minister to accept open wagon movement; it does not affect adversely. (Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. Next Question.

Short-term Credit needs of Agriculture at the end of Fourth Plan

* 162 **SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI :** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) whether the short-term credit needs of the agriculture at the end of Fourth Plan has been worked out, if so, the details of the study; and