

(e) A number of cattle development schemes have been adopted by the Central and State Governments. The Key Village Scheme, Intensive Cattle Development Projects, provision of veterinary aid and manufacture of biological products to prevent and cure diseases are some of the important measures. For scientific breeding a number of cattle breeding farms are being set up.

Cotton Production

173. Shri K. N. Pandey:
 Shri Madhu Limaye:
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
 Shri George Fernandes:
 Shri Ramachandra Veerappa:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken some special measures to increase the production of cotton of different varieties in the country; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof together with the cost involved?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Yes. Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been taken up for maximising production of medium and long staple varieties of cotton in new selected areas of maximum potential in the important cotton growing States, besides continuing the Package areas already covered under the State Programmes.

(b) A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-432/67].

Revision of Fertiliser Prices

- *173. Shri V. Krishnamoorthi:
 Shri Hem Raj:
 Shri Siddheshwar Prasad:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have

fertilisers with effect from the 1st April, 1967;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government consulted the State Governments on the upward revision of fertiliser prices?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The prices of fertilisers sold by the Central Fertiliser pool are to be fixed with reference to the cost of procurement, handling and transport of the fertilisers procured from indigenous factories or imported from abroad. As a result of devaluation the prices of imported fertilisers went up by 57.5 per cent from 6-6-1966. The prices of fertilisers sold by the Central Fertiliser Pool were maintained at the pre-devaluation level upto 31-3-1967 and the loss to the Central Pool as a result of this subsidy is estimated to be about Rs. 48 crores. In order to reduce the loss suffered by the Central Fertiliser Pool in 1967-68, an upward revision of the prices of fertilisers sold by the Central Pool became necessary. Even after the revision of prices from 1-4-1967, the Central Fertiliser Pool would be suffering a loss to the extent of about Rs. 15 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

Effect of Insecticides used for Food on human health

*174. Shri Baburao Patel: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the lethal and poisonous effects of the various insecticides and pesticides used for food and agricultural purposes in our country;

(b) whether Government propose to appoint a Committee to investigate the cumulative poisonous effects of these pesticides and insecticides on human