

and the limited tabulating facilities the publication of reports such as these usually takes time.

(b) (i) According to the 1961 Census the total number of agricultural labourers was 31.48 million.

(ii) A Statement showing the minimum rates of wages fixed for unskilled adult male workers in various States under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1028/68].

(iii) According to the Second Agricultural Labour Enquiry (1956-57) the All-India average employment for wages of adult male agricultural labourers in the year was 197 days.

(c) Wages for agricultural labour under the Minimum Wages Act are fixed by State Governments who take all relevant factors into account.

(d) A special Agricultural Cell has been set up within the Ministry.

Sale of Weevilled Wheat to Flour Mills in Haryana

*1466. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6423 on the 4th April, 1968 regarding free sale of weevilled wheat to the Roller Flour Mills in Haryana and state :

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision in this matter as the new crop has already started coming in the *madis* in huge quantities ;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the difficulties which lie in Government's way in coming to a decision and how long it would take to do so ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). If the flour mills in Haryana are permitted to purchase indigenous wheat then it would become necessary to give such permission to the mills located in the other surplus States also. In view of this it was felt that this general question should be considered when a better idea about the trend of prices of wheat would be available after the arrival of new crop in the market.

Use of Chemical Fertilizers

8422. SHRI BABURAO PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether over 5 kilograms of fertilizers being used per hectare these days has made our agriculture a completely fertilizer-oriented occupation without the need of good, old compost ; and

(b) the quantity and value of total fertilizers of various kinds required this year by way of imports and indigenous production ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM) : (a) The over-all consumption of chemical fertilizers per unit area of agricultural land in 1967-68 was about 10 kilograms per hectare of arable land in terms of nutrients (N+P+K)—Nitrogen, Phosphate and Potass.

It is the policy of the Government to encourage the use of chemical fertilisers in combination with organic manures to obtain maximum agricultural production.

(b) The estimated requirement of various fertilisers during the year 1968-69 is given below :

(Quantity in million tonnes)
(Value : Rupees in crores)

	Nitrogenous (in 'N')		Phosphatic (in 'P ₂ O ₅ ')		Potassic (in K ₂ O)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Target Indigenous production	1.700	357.0	0.650	156.00	0.450	36.0
*Deficit to be met by imports	0.650	136.5	0.330	79.20	—	—
	1.050	220.5	0.320	76.80	0.450	36.0

*Actual imports may be of lesser quantities, depending on the extent of availability from carry-over stock and off-take.