

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : The question that I asked was, whether the Central team has been finalised and when it is likely to visit the area.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I will see that the Central team goes as soon as possible.

New system of distribution of fertilizers

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*91. **SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :**
SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the present system of distribution of fertilizers to reach the farmers;

(b) whether Government are considering to introduce a new system of distribution of fertilizers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how far it will be help-ful in increasing the production and consumption of fertilizers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (d) A Statement is given below.

Statement

The requirement of fertiliser for each State/Union Territory/Commodity Board is assessed before the beginning of each crop season. This is done in consultation with the State Governments/UTs/Ministry of Railways/Planning Commission/Fertiliser Industry and various Commodity Boards.

2. After assessing the requirement of fertilisers, allocation of indigenous fertilisers is made to cover the requirement of each State/UT/Commodity Board and short-fall, if any, is made up by allocating the required quantity of imported fertilisers.

3. The pattern of allocation is decided in such a manner that every State gets its requirement from the nearest production unit or port. In the case of urea, which accounts for the largest quantity of fertiliser consumed in the country, certain specific areas/number of districts in the State are being indicated in the supply plan. However, the State Governments have been given the option of allocating one or two additional contiguous districts to the unit for supply of urea only covering not more than 10 per cent of the total quantity of allocation given to the unit in the State, in case the State considers it absolutely necessary. The States/UTs have also been advised to make district-wise allocation of urea and single super phosphate. This has been done with a view to minimising the cost of transportation, which is borne by the Government of India, besides avoiding cross movement of fertilisers. This will also ensure adequate availability of fertilisers in all parts of the country.

4. From October, 1986 the States have been advised to nominate a 'lead manufacturer' for each district and one for the State as a whole, in consultation with the fertiliser industry. This has been done with a view to associating the fertiliser industry more intimately with the State Department of Agriculture in assessing the requirement of fertiliser at the district level, popularising the use of fertiliser in the rainfed areas, in improving the system of collection of fertiliser statistics, in opening of additional retail outlets and in training of fertiliser dealers and farmers for handling and use of fertilisers.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Sir, I am grateful to the Agriculture Ministry for their welcoming efforts to increase the fertilizer utilisation by the farmers throughout the country by providing huge amount of subsidy. But you may kindly see my question, my categorical question in which I have asked for the details of new system of distribution of fertilizer. Except mentioning that this new system has been introduced from October, 1986, and a "lead manufacturer" for each district and one for the State as a whole, would be selected by the States, nothing

has been mentioned. So, may I know the details of the new system of fertilizer distribution from October, 1986, when this new system has been introduced. May I know which are the States who have introduced the new system and the reaction of the other States which have not introduced this system, and how far this new system will be helpful to the small and marginal farmers in the rural areas and also in the interior-most part of the country where farmers are neither getting fertilizer in time, nor according to their requirements and even if they are getting, that is available at higher rate and substandard too ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :

This new system is introduced in order to promote the fertilizer consumption in the rain-fed areas, because earlier the fertilizers were distributed in the irrigated areas and the rain-fed areas were neglected. And that is why, this system is introduced, and of course, we have requested all the States to follow it up and we are monitoring it.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : My second supplementary would be that the 6-Member Working Group headed by Mr. M. R. Natarajan has suggested to the Government that direct marketing of fertilizers by the indigenous manufacturers should be stopped and a Central Fertilizer Marketing Corporation should be set up which would be held responsible for distribution of indigenous and also imported fertilizers. What is the reaction of the Government on these issues ?

May I know the reason why the fertilizer plants under the public sector undertakings also stopped their production due to some reason or other ? While citing one example, I may cite about the fertilizer plant at Talcher in Orissa which had stopped production from the month of August, 1986 due to non-supply of coal because of non-payment of arrears amounting to Rs. 10 crores. How is the Government thinking to meet the indigenous requirements of fertilizer when the public undertaking industry stopped their production ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :

The hon. Member has made the suggestion that there should be one agency to distribute fertiliser. I have taken note of the suggestion. No new distribution has been introduced as such. The list of names of lead manufacturers is being finalised by the State Governments in consultation with the fertiliser industry. It proposes to have lead manufacturers for each district and also one for each State.

So far as production is concerned, I have no idea about it because my colleague is dealing with the production of fertiliser. The N. R. Natarajan Committee has not finalised its deliberations so far and has not yet taken any decision about the marketing organisation for fertilisers.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : One of the causes for the increase in the price of fertiliser is its transportation on expenses. Especially the railways is transporting fertiliser. Racks will have to be booked for transporting fertiliser. It is not possible to do so in certain railway stations. I know it particularly in connection with fertilisers and chemicals in Alwaye in Kerala where transportation is causing difficulty and that increases the consequent price rise for the agriculturists.

Will the Government consider a proposal or have a scheme to subsidise the transporting charges of fertilisers and get a subsidised rate for the farmers throughout the country ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :

The Government is subsidising the transport at the block-level. Up to the block-level, we are giving transport charges to dealers.

[Translation]

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : The Central Government had issued an order allowing 25 per cent subsidy on fertilizers

—Potash and Super—phosphate excluding Nitrogen. But, is the hon. Minister aware that due to the negligence of some officers or due to their not reading the order properly, the subsidy was allowed on Nitrogen also resulting in a loss of Rs. 40 crores to the exchequer? I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of it and if so, what action was taken against the officers due to whose negligence the Government had to suffer such a huge loss?

[English]

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I do not think there is any truth in it but I will definitely enquire and let the hon. Member know about it.

Structure of Doordarshan Management.

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*93 SHRI V. SOBHANADRESSWARA RAO :

SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) Whether there are any proposals for restructuring the Doordarshan management to improve its functioning and to produce better programmes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) and (b) The working of Doordarshan and the need to restructure, modify and expand the organisation to meet its constantly growing requirements are monitored and reviewed as a continuing on-going process. Similarly, continuous efforts are made to improve the programmes being telecast.

SHRI V. SOBHANADRESSWARA RAO : Will the Government take steps to open a separate channel with distinct

identity and exclusively devoted to rural audience to make television a tool of socio-economic development and reform as recommended by the Joshi Committee?

SHRI A. K. PANJA : The Joshi Committee recommendations have been received by the Government

So far as encouraging the national, regional and rural programmes are concerned, we have divided the programmes into three parts, the national, primary and local. The Joshi Committee recommendations are being seen by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and the details are being looked into.

SHRI V. SOBHANADRESSWARA RAO : What about rural audience?
(Interruptions)

SHRI A. K. PANJA : The recommendations which have been made and the details are being looked into. Already, whatever given in the Seventh Plan for the Rural Programmes, is being looked into. The Joshi Committee's recommendations and the Seventh Plan provisions could be dovetailed together for having rural orientation.

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Availability of Aluminium to secondary manufacturers/users

*81. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the production of aluminium metal in the country is far below the demand;

(b) whether the secondary and small users are not getting their requirements from primary producers and they have