

AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). The Statement given below.

Statement

(a) and (b). While there are no authentic reports about the clandestine use of sub-standard Calcium Ammonium Nitrate stored by the Food Corporation of India in its godowns for making the explosives but there has been a press report in the Hindustan Times dated 4.2.1987 regarding the use of fertilisers to make the explosives.

Sale, price and quality of fertilisers are regulated through Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985, which has been issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Clause 23 of the said Order provides for disposal of non-standard fertilisers to be not sold to the farmers, who should get quality fertilisers can be sold only to manufactures of mixtures of fertilisers or special mixtures of fertilisers or research farms of Government or Universities or such bodies.

Again under Clause 25 of the Order, no person shall except with the permission of Central Government and subject to such terms and conditions as may be imposed by the Government, sell or use fertilisers for purposes other than fertilisation of soils and increasing productivity of crops. The price of fertilisers permitted for sale for industrial purposes shall be on no profit no loss basis.

The State Governments, who have been delegated the powers to enforce the Fertiliser (Control) Order in the State, have been asked to keep a strict vigil on the unauthorised diversion of fertiliser for industrial purposes and to take legal action against the offenders.

The news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 4.2.1987 regarding use of fertilisers to make explosives was also brought to the notice of the State Governments, with a view to ensuring that fertilisers are not used for any commercial purpose unless specifically permitted.

The Food Corporation of India has also been asked to stop the sale of sub-

standard CAN to private parties and explore the possibilities of sale to Government industrial institutions.

[Translation]

SHRI AKHTAR HASAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, sub-standard fertilisers fetch a good price in the market but sometimes these are sold to the farmers also. The farmers pay the full price but the agricultural output is less. Will the hon. Minister kindly stop the production of sub-standard fertilisers? If this cannot be done, will the Government ensure that so that the production safeguard the interest of farmers. Non-standard fertilisers sub-standard fertilisers is good and the farmers are benefited and the nation also makes progress.

[English]

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, there is a provision under Fertilizer Control Order 1985, as to how it should be disposed of and it should not be given to the farmers for use. If anybody is selling to the farmers, then it because an offence under the Essential Commodities Act under this Order itself. So, the farmers are protected against the sub standard fertilizers.

Guidelines for Selection of Beneficiaries under IRDP

*171. SHRI AJAY BISWAS† :
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PAT-
NAIK :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the allocation for implementation of the Integrated Rural Development Programme during 1987-88;

(b) the number of families proposed to be covered under IRDP during 1987-88;

(c) whether Government have issued any guidelines to the States for selection of the beneficiaries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV) : (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

Statement

The Central share of allocation for IRDP is Rs. 310.00 crores. This includes Rs. 308.14 crores for the programme and Rs. 1.86 crore for Monitoring Cell and Research and Evaluation Studies etc. The total allocation, including the State share for IRDP is Rs. 613.64 crores. It is proposed to assist Rs. 39.11 lakh families during 1987-88.

The guidelines issued for selection of beneficiaries during the Sixth Plan continues. In order to identify the eligible beneficiaries, the DRDAs are to carry out first of all household surveys. The surveyed families should be categorised into 3* groups i.e. income upto Rs. 2265, 2266—3500 and Rs. 3501—4800. Thereafter the following procedure should be adopted for selection :

- (i) The list of the poorest of the poor families should be prepared by the VLW/Block staff.
- (ii) The said list should, then, be placed for approval in the meeting of the Village Assembly (Gram Sabha). This meeting should be called by the Block Development Officer.
- (iii) The Village Assembly should be attended by the local people, non-officials, block officers and bank officers, prominent voluntary action groups etc. should and be associated with these meetings.
- (iv) The list of the beneficiaries finally selected in this Village Assembly should be displayed on the notice board of the village panchayat and the block office. In case any dispute is raised regarding any name in the final list, it should be decided by the Project Director, District Rural Development Agency in consultation with the BDO.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Sir, it is said that banks are taking more than one year to sanction the assistance to the beneficiaries after having received the application. There are also instances that applications are being rejected by the bank authorities on flimsy grounds and the beneficiaries of the IRDP are being harassed. My question is, whether the Government have any plan to simplify the present procedure so that the beneficiaries of the IRDP can get loans in a very easy way from the banks ?

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that various agencies are engaged in the work of selecting the beneficiaries and this results in delay. The agencies involved in this work are VLW, Block Officers and the financial institutions of the banks. The banks play a major role in it. However, it has been noticed that VLW prepares the list by selecting the beneficiaries arbitrarily and includes the names of those persons who are not eligible under the IRDP. We have issued certain guidelines according to which VLW and block development officers should first prepare a list of the beneficiaries after due survey and the list should be submitted to the Gram Sabha for its approval. This meeting should be attended by the bank officers, veterinary officers, block development officers and other concerned agencies. The list of beneficiaries finally approved by Gram Sabha should be displayed on the notice board of the Gram Panchayat, block development office and district development office which is under the District Rural Development Agency. This order should be implemented at the earliest. We have instructed the State Government to implement it. So far as the non-cooperation of the banks is concerned, I think they are not as uncooperative as you are stating. So far as the financial institutions are concerned, we shall definitely hold an enquiry. It has also been said that scrutiny of applications should be over within two or three months so that loans could be granted at the earliest.

[English]

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Under the present scheme, actually the beneficiaries have no choice in the purchase of the pro-

ducts. My question is whether the Government have any proposal to change the present scheme and introduce a new scheme which would give necessary freedom to the beneficiaries to purchase the products of their choice. Would the Government introduce any scheme to give cash to the beneficiaries?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : Before providing the assets to the beneficiaries it has to be seen whether they are viable and the production from them can be sold in the local markets and also whether the necessary infrastructure is available. All this can be examined only by an expert. Those who know how the marketing system functions ...(*Interruptions*)

RAO BIKENDRA SINGH : His supplementary is that the beneficiary should have the choice to purchase the products and he should not depend on the bank ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : Shri Rao is quite right. But the question is of the marketability of the products, and the availability of the required infrastructure. When these are created, only then we can provide the assets. It is true that the beneficiaries are told about the market potential of the assets and then they are to select their items. It is important that the experts should advise them regarding the viability of the assets as to whether the necessary infrastructure is available, whether milk, chairs etc. can be sold, whether some new machinery can be produced and whether taxi repair or repair of some other parts can be undertaken. We provide finance to all types of people. But the beneficiaries are advised by experts only.

[*English*]

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : I would like to know whether you will change that list. In the present scheme, only a little List is presented to the beneficiary and he purchases from that List. The beneficiaries have no choice. I would like to know whether that scheme will be changed.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : This is right. According to the report received by

as the beneficiaries still have the right to select their assets. But the authorities also advise them about the location of the various markets and about the selection of the market.

[*English*]

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I would like to know from you whether a farmer knows better about a buffalo or the Animal Husbandry Inspector. I would like to know who is an expert on this.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The buffalo is expected to be an expert!

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : In this case intelligence will be subservient to size.

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : I want to submit that it is a very important issue and as such half-an-hour discussion should be allowed.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : A recent studies made by the Central Government in different States has indicated that in some States the beneficiaries have been selected from the lowest income groups and in many states, higher income groups or comparatively more affluent income level groups of the rural poor have been selected.

Our intention is to benefit the poor preferably the poorest of the poor. The hon. Minister has said in his reply that the DRDAs are to carry out the household surveys. The Survey should be categorised into three income groups. The income groups of Rs. 4,800/may first be included in the beneficiary list of IRDP, in spite of various processes for the list prepared by VLW/Block Staff and approved by Gram Sabha. My point is we should help the poorest of the poor first I would like to know whether the Government is considering lowering the annual income limit of the beneficiaries under IRDP so that comparatively the poorer people would benefit more.

Secondly, under the IRDP Scheme, 30% beneficiaries should be women as per the

guidelines of the Central Government. But the target has not reached in the actual field.

May I know what is the percentage of women of IRDP beneficiaries. The major part of the work of IRDP is being done by womenfolk even though the beneficiaries are men. Why are the women not selected as the beneficiaries also? If there is any constraint, what steps are taken to remove them?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : According to the concurrent evaluation report, 78 per cent beneficiaries were in the annual income bracket of Rs. 3500. This is our achievement. Now the limit has been raised to Rs. 6,400. However, there is a second layer with Rs. 4,800 as the limit and selection is made below this income limit. The other annual brackets are Rs. 1 to Rs. 2225 and Rs. 2265 to Rs. 3535 from among whom selections are made. According to our concurrent evaluation report, 78 per cent of the beneficiaries are selected from among the poor people. The annual income of only 5 per cent beneficiaries, according to the evaluation, is between Rs. 4800 and Rs. 6400.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Floor Price for Coconut in Karnataka

*169. **SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand for fixing a floor price for coconut in Karnataka State; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G.S. DHILLON) : (a) and (b).

Government have received a number of representations from various sources for fixing a support price for coconut (copra). Some coconut growers from Karnataka also represented to Government to take steps to increase the price of their produce. This representation was received in October, 1985.

Government have decided to fix the support price for coconut (copra) on a regular basis, as in the case of major agricultural commodities.

Registered Educated Unemployed

*172. **SHRI MURLI DEORA :** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of unemployed graduates and other registered with employment exchanges in the country at the end of June, 1986;

(b) the percentage of unemployed persons who have been provided employment by the employment exchanges during the last three years, and

(c) the number of unemployed persons estimated to be on the role of the Employment Exchanges at the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) The number of graduates (including post-graduates) and other job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, who were on the live register of employment exchanges as on 30.6.1986 was 26.0 and 252.1 lakhs respectively.

(b) Employment Exchanges are only one amongst several agencies through which placements of unemployed persons are made. The percentage of placements made by the Employment Exchanges to the number of persons registered with them year-wise during the last three years is as follows :