

undertaken only if funds are available. As to the question asked by the hon. Member, no such proposal has been received by the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Next Question No. 635.

Promotion of Fish Farming in U.P.

*635. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by Government to promote fish farming in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether Government provide any financial assistance to the fish farmers in the event of any loss to them; and

(c) if so, the details of the nature of assistance provided ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) For promotion of fish farming in Uttar Pradesh 28 Fish Farmers' Development Agencies (FFDAs) have been set up under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Development of Agriculture". These FFDAs provide the requisite financial, technical and extension support for fish farming.

For ensuring supply of quality fish seed for fish farming activity, the Government have sanctioned establishment of 5 Commercial fish seed hatcheries in Uttar Pradesh.

A Central Sector scheme for utilisation of sewage for fish farming has also been sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh during 1987-88.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, fish farming is an important industry of our country. I feel that fish is neither an unwelcome addition to one's dish nor does it hurt one's religious feelings. The hon. Minister of State of Agriculture, who belongs to Uttar Pradesh, is present here. I do not know what kind of encouragement is being given to fish farming in Uttar

Pradesh because in reply to my Question he has stated that Rs. 82 lakhs were allocated for this in 1986-87 and only Rs. 47.64 lakhs in 1987-88. This is the position in Uttar Pradesh. I do not know what type of encouragement you are providing and what type of efforts you are making ?

Could the hon. Minister please tell me something about the technical aspect of this development programme ? Where in Uttar Pradesh is this programme being taken up ? In view of the importance of water reservoirs of Uttar Pradesh, particularly those of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, is the Government considering to establish hatcheries in the commissionereries of Banaras, Gorakhpur, Azamgarh and Ballia ?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I want to tell the hon. Member that facilities for fish farming are available in 1 lakh 25 thousand hectares in ponds and tanks, 1 lakh 31 thousand hectares in water reservoirs, 1 lakh 89 thousand hectares in lakes and 7 lakh 23 thousand hectares in perennial rivers. This information pertains to Uttar Pradesh only. Production of fish in Uttar Pradesh is expected to be 85 thousand metric tonnes in 1987-88. By the end of the Seventh Plan in 1989-90 the target for fish production has been fixed at 1 lakh metric tonnes. I shall now explain what is being done at technical level during the Seventh Plan. In the Seventh Plan stress has been laid on the development of fish farming in ponds and tanks, changing the outlook, fish farming in cold waters or in water in hilly areas, setting-up of a National Fishermen Welfare Fund, Fishermen Group Insurance Schemes for accidents, establishment of fish hatcheries and the development of fish farming development agencies.

Sir, in Uttar Pradesh alone, fish production agencies are functioning in 28 districts. Funds are sanctioned for the these working agencies. A sum of Rs. 2 lakh, 50 thousand is given annually. As regards your question about the location of the five hatcheries, I would like to tell that one is in Gorakhpur, which you have been demanding, one in Gomtinagar in Lucknow, one in Amethi, one in Allahabad and one in Faizabad. An yearly expenditure of Rs. 51 lakhs will be incurred on each of these.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : I have asked something else and the answer is something else. The hon. Minister is quite an intelligent person. He knows why the hatcheries have been established in Amethi, Gomtinagar in Lucknow, Gorakhpur and Allahabad. He is interpreting my question in his own way. There is no reply to my question whether the Government propose to establish hatcheries in Azamgarh and Ballia. I asked the reason for sanctioning only Rs. 47 lakhs in 1987-88 when Rs. 82 lakhs were sanctioned in 1986-87, and why a step-motherly treatment is being meted out to eastern Uttar Pradesh. The hon. Minister did not reply to these two questions nor am I expecting any reply from him. He has given his speech and it will be published in newspapers.

The hon. Minister, all the three hon. Ministers and the whole House is aware that fish farming is a dangerous activity. Rise and fall of tides, murder of children due to enmity between fishermen and laxity in precautionary measures are a few dangers this activity suffers from. There is no industry in the country whose labour force is not compensated for inherent dangers in their work. This Government professes to be a champion of farmers (*Interruptions*). Has the Government provided for compensation to cover the dangers in this fish farming industry?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I have answered everything about the districts in question. I want to clarify that Ballia, Ghazipur, Mirzapur, Gorakhpur, Basti, Deoria and Azamgarh are included in the districts where development agencies have been set up. Azamgarh is also one of the 28 districts where development agencies are functioning.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : I had asked about 5 districts.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : These 5 districts are also included. But 5 districts do not constitute the whole of Uttar Pradesh. (*Interruptions*)

The hon. Member's district is also included. As to the question of expenditure, I would like to say that under Plan Schemes

Rs. 1,250 lakhs is the voted expenditure out of which Rs. 788.02 lakhs have been spent till 1987-88. This is the way the schemes are in progress.

About the dangers being faced by fishermen in their work, a separate scheme for accident-insurance of fishermen is in force. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have not allowed you. Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have allowed two supplementaries. Now, I have called next question. I cannot help it.

(*Interruptions*)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I cannot allow you. Nothing will go on record.

Availability Position of Foodgrains

*636. **PROF. P.J. KURIEN† :**
SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any target has been fixed for procurement of foodgrains; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the assessment regarding the damage to the crops caused recently by hailstorm and untimely rains in certain parts of the country and its impact on overall position of the foodgrain reserves; and

(c) whether in view of the reported damage to the crops, Government propose to review the procurement targets and also the quantum of foodgrains to be imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM)† : (a) to (c). No targets are fixed for the procurement of foodgrains. The procurement of wheat, paddy and coarsegrains is done under the price support scheme, and procurement of rice under a levy on rice mills and dealers.