

Though overall availability position of seeds is satisfactory, there are minor shortages due to varietal choice. Overall availability of pesticides has been reported to be satisfactory.

(b) These items are being made available to the farmers at reasonable prices.

(c) All out efforts have been made to ensure adequate supply of the inputs.

Rain-fed areas under cultivation

*332. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total areas under cultivation which is dependent on rainfall in the country;

(b) what steps Government have taken so far to develop irrigation facilities in various States;

(c) whether any targets have been fixed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the achievements made in bringing more areas under irrigation in these States?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Out of the total cultivable area of 185 million hectares, the area covered by irrigation facilities to the end of 1990-91 is about 82.76 million hectares. Cultivation in the remaining area is dependent on rainfall only.

(b) 263 major irrigation projects and 1104 medium irrigation projects have been taken up to develop irrigation facilities in the country, in addition to promotion of well irrigation and minor irrigation works. 83 major projects and 777 medium projects have been completed so far.

(c) and (d) Creation of an additional irrigation potential of 2.854 million hectares was targetted for 1990-91 against which the anticipated achievement has been 3.017 million hectares.

Ban on recruitment of postmen

*333. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a ban on recruitment of postmen since 1984; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT):

(a) In January, 1984 a ban was imposed on creation of new posts, except in the most exceptional circumstances. It was also ordered that vacancies where recruitment action had not been taken should not be filled. However, the said orders were since relaxed in August, 1986 and recruitment to fill up vacancies caused due to retirement, death, promotion etc., has been permitted.

(b) The restrictions in creation of posts were imposed by the Government of India not only in postman cadre but in all other cadres also. It was done with a view to effect strict economy in Government expenditure.

*334. [Transferred to the 17th. December 1991]

Singing of National Anthem In Delhi Schools

£*335. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Administration has recently issued an order making it compulsory to sing the National Anthem every day after morning assembly in the Schools;

(b) if so, whether all the schools are following the above order; and

(c) if not, the details thereof?

£ Previously starred questions 295. Transferred from the 11th December, 1991.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information given by the Delhi Administration, no report regarding non-implementation of direction has been received by them.

(c) Does not arise.

Steel Depot in Assam

*336. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish a steel depot in Assam in view of the acute shortage of steel products; and

(b) if so, whether such depot is proposed to be established at Tinsukia/Bongaigaon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Opening of a stockyard is proposed by SAIL at Jhalukbari, near Guwahati on Broad Gauge. A plot of land measuring approximately 20 acres has been identified for the larger stockyard and SAIL has requested the Government of Assam to take necessary steps for the acquisition of the said plot of land.

The Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) is also establishing a consignment agency at Guwahati in Assam. The preliminary process has just been started.

आंगनवाड़ी कामगारों को दिया गया भोजन

*337. सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :
श्री राम जेठमलानी :

का चानच संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 24 नवम्बर, 1991 "हिंदू" में "वेड

फूड सप्लाई टु आंगनवाड़ीज" शीर्षक के अन्तर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार को और गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यांरा क्या है ; और

(ग) स्थिति में सुधार करने के लिये क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं ?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री अर्जुन सिंह) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) रिपोर्ट में बताया गया है कि जिन कम्पनियों से करार किया गया था, वे लगभग दो वर्षों तक या तो खाली वस्तुओं की सप्लाई नहीं कर रही थीं अथवा अनियमित रूप से सप्लाई कर रही थीं अथवा वे निम्नस्तर की खाली सामग्री सप्लाई कर रही थीं । लाभ प्राप्तकर्ताओं को वह सामग्री लेना मंजूर नहीं था अथवा मनुष्यों द्वारा उपभोग किये जाने के वह काबिल नहीं था ।

(ग) भारत सरकार ने, इस संबंध में उच्च स्तरीय प्रशासनिक जांच किये जाने के आदेश दिये हैं । दिल्ली प्रशासन ने एक फर्म का नाम ब्लैक लिस्ट में रख दिया है और इस फर्म की सविदायें रद्द कर दी हैं । सप्लाई बहाल करने के लिये नई निविदायें आमंत्रित की गई हैं । गुणवत्ता सुनिश्चित करने के लिये आबधिक नमूना परीक्षण हेतु एक प्रणाली भी शुरू कर दी गई है ।

Supply of free books and other Study Materials to Poor Students

*338. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that books and other study materials are provided free of cost in the Government-run/aided schools to its students belonging to families below the poverty line, besides those from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes categories;