

Enhancement of subsidy on fertilizers

*4. **SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:**
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enhance the fertilizers subsidy to help the growth of production in agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE **SHRI JAYANTI LAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH**): (a) and (b) Government has no proposal to enhance the rate of subsidy being paid at present under the Retention Price-cum-subsidy Scheme for fertilizers.

Allotment of funds for electrification of Jolarpet—Erode railway line

*5. **SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN:**
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how much funds were allotted for electrification of Jolarpet-Erode broad gauge railway line during the last financial year;

(b) how much funds have been spent so far;

(c) by when this line would be fully electrified; and

(d) whether Government propose to extend electrification to Palghat?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (**SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA**): (a) Rs. 24.41 crores were allotted during the year 1989-90.

(b) Since beginning and upto January, 1991 Rs. 57.73 crores have been spent.

(c) December, 1991.

(d) No, Sir.

Shortage of fertilisers in Andhra Pradesh

*6. **SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the maximum shortage of nitrogenous fertilisers is being felt in Andhra Pradesh in the Southern region;

(b) whether a request was made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the setting up of a large Ammonia/Urea Plant in that State by IFFCO; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking in this regard so as to make up the shortage of these fertilisers in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (**SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH**): (a) to (c) Urea, which is the major source of nitrogen, was not imported in the country in 1989-90 and 1990-91. The requirement of nitrogen was met mostly by indigenous production. The requirement of nitrogenous fertilisers of all the States is being met from the plants located in the States and also by arranging supplies from other states. Arrangements have been made to meet the full requirement of Andhra Pradesh as well. Andhra Pradesh, however, is a deficit State when viewed strictly in the context of its requirement and the production facilities located in the State. A suggestion was received from the State Government in June, 1990, that Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) may be advised to set up a high rated urea plant in Andhra Pradesh based on natural gas from the Krishna-Godavari basin. A reply was sent to the State Government on 20th July, 1990 that since

IFFCO had proposed doubling of their Aonla plant, their financial and managerial resources would be fully tied up with the Aonla project and they may not be able to undertake a project in the Krishna-Godavari basin. Government, however, is committed to meet, in full, the requirement of nitrogenous fertilisers of the State.

Criteria for declaration of drought prone areas

*7. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria for declaring any area as "Drought Prone";

(b) whether such criteria have undergone any changes recently; if so, when and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any reviews/studies have been conducted so far in respect of DPAP (Drought Prone Areas Programme) and DDP (Desert Development Programme) by Government or outside agencies; if so, the results thereof; and

(d) whether there is any involvement of non-Government Organisations and Panchayat Raj Institutions in Drought management and desert development activities/programmes, etc. going on in the country at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b) The report of the Task Force on Integrated Rural Development submitted in June, 1973 and headed by Dr. B.S. Minhas, had divided drought prone areas into 3 categories i.e. extremely arid, semi-arid, and sub-moist areas, covering areas with rainfall upto 375 mm, 375 to 750 mm and from 750 mm to 1125 mm respectively.

The following criteria for coverage of areas under DPAP and DDP was

laid down in the report of the Task Force headed by Dr. M. S. Swaminathan in 1982 based on average annual rainfall and extent of area under irrigation:

Block as unit for inclusion	Annual rainfall	Percentage irrigated area to net sown area
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Criteria for inclusion of blocks.	(i) below 750 mm	below 20%
	(ii) 750 to 1125mm	below 15%
	(iii) above 1125 mm	below 10%

The above criteria is subject to the fact that the number of blocks to be covered should be atleast 20 per cent of the total blocks in the district. The criteria laid down in the Swaminathan Committee Report as partly modified by Inter-Departmental Group in 1984 forms the basis of coverage of areas under DPAP/DDP at present.

As for desert areas, while the Task Force could not arrive at a precise definition of desert conditions, by and large, areas having an annual rainfall of less than 400 mm and less than 30 per cent irrigated area have been treated as arid areas qualifying for inclusion under the Desert Development Programme.

(c) No comprehensive evaluation study has been undertaken of these programmes so far but, the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission is engaged in carrying out such an evaluation. However, few studies on specific sectoral activities in the project areas were entrusted to independent agencies in the past. Some evaluation studies on sectoral programmes have also been sponsored/carried out by State Government. Most of these reports have stressed on integrated watershed approach, people's participation, better inter-departmental coordination, up-