

Impending Food Crisis in the Country

1311. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country is likely to face food crisis reminiscent of 1960's;

(b) whether these observations have been made by the Science Advisory Board to the Prime Minister;

(c) if so, what are the main points put forward by them in predicting such crisis;

(d) whether series of measures have been suggested as to how the food crisis is to be met;

(e) whether the existing plans for food grains production would be sufficient to meet the crisis; and

(f) if not, what are the other steps being taken in , his regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (c) The Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister while making a perspective projection of food production, in a document entitled 'An Approach to a Perspective Plan for 2001 AD: Role of Science and Technology—Recommendations for Action' have expressed the fear that if the projected level of food production is not achieved by the turn of the Century, India is likely to face a food crisis that will be reminiscent of the 1960s.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) The Government is fully aware of the country's requirement of food and to meet these requirements, several programmes **and** schemes have already been initiated to push up the production to the required level.

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News Item Captioned 'West Bengal not consulted on Panchayat meet'

1312. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under the caption 'West Bengal not consulted on Panchayat meet' which appeared in the Telegraph dated the 25th March, 1989; wherein it has been stated that Government of West Bengal was not consulted during Panchayat meet; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) We have seen the report. The news item does not fully reflect the arrangements made for the conduct of the Panchayati Raj Sammelan of the Eastern & North-Eastern States at Calcutta. In fact the Agriculture Minister had written to the Chief Minister about the intention of the Government of India to hold the Sammelan at Calcutta and sought the State Government's cooperation to make it a success. As desired by the West Bengal Government, the Panchayati Raj Sammelan held in Calcutta from 3rd to 7th April, 1989, was hosted by the State Government. There was no misunderstanding between the State Government and the Government of India in the organisation of this Panchayati Raj Sammelan.

Import of Phosphoric Acid by IFFCO

1313. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of phosphoric acid imported by IFFCO during the last three years; and

(b) the sources where from this item was imported, and at what prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILI-

ZFRS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIR. PRABHU) : (a) and (b) The information on quantity, price and sources of phosphoric acid imported by IFFCO for its use during last three years, is as under :—

Year	Rate/MT P205 in US \$	Quantity in '000' MT of P205
1986		
1st half	366.0	153
2nd half	332.0	16T
1987		
1st half	325.0	180
2nd half	350.0	105.4
1988		
1st half	385.0	1-72.4
2nd half	425.5	171.0

The sources of pho; phoric acid supplies are :—

- (1) M/s OCP, Morocco
- (2) M/s ICM, Tunisia
- (3) M/s SIAPE, Tunisia
- (4) M/s ICS, Senegal
- (5) M/s Phoschem, USA
- (6) M/s Mitsui & CO.,
- (7) M/s Gardiniers, USA, etc.

Enquiry against Incharge of Moti Nagar Godown of NCCF

1314. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY ; Will the Minister of FCOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 950 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24 th February, 1989 and state whether the major penalty proceedings have been completed and disciplinary action taken against the giti/iy Assistant Manager, if so, the

details thereof and if not, what are the specific reasons for the inordinate delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM) : The NCCF have reported that the review of the case has since been completed and action is undeiw&y.

Concentration on Activities of Water Supply

1315. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether more concentration on activities under the problem oriented national drinking water mission has been envisaged and whether any projects have been approved in this regard and if so, the details thereof :