

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Basudeb Mohapatra.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA : Sir, I would like to know from the honourable Minister as to when the work was started and how much amount has been spent so far in the execution of this work.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : Sir, after the allotment of the tender, I cannot say exactly the date on which the work was started and how much has been spent. I cannot tell that also. But the work is going on at full speed and I would instruct the Doordarshan authorities to see that it is completed at the earliest and undue delay takes place.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA : Sir, he has stated how much amount has been spent.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : Sir, I have broadly stated about the progress and I have myself said that I cannot tell how much amount has been spent. I cannot say how much amount has exactly been spent so far.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 367 Mr. Majhi.

#### Self sufficiency in edible oils

\*367. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board has taken any steps towards attaining self sufficiency in edible oils ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) and (b) A Statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Statement

(a) and (b) The National Dairy Development Board has collaborated with seven State Government to establish Oilseeds Growers' Co-operative Federations for providing technology, inputs and market support to oilseed growers for 'increasing production. These States, namely Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa account for nearly 80% of oilseeds production in the country. These Federations have organised 3415 oilseeds farmers societies with about 5 lakhs members cultivating 12 lakh hectares of oilseeds area. The NDDB's GROFED Project envisages coverage of a total of 12 lakh farmers with 25 lakh hectares of oilseeds area at a total cost of Rs. 700 crores.

Further, under Government's Integrated Policy on Oilseeds for accelerating self-reliance in edible oils, the NDDB has been designated as the Market Intervention Agency with a view to stabilise prices of groundnut and rapeseed/mustard oils within a price band which is fair to both the farmer and the consumer. In 1988-89, NDDB has procured oilseeds and oils worth of Rs. 400 crores which has ensured attractive prices for the oilseeds farmer.

SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI : Sir, according to the reply of the honourable Minister, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa are the oilseed-producing States. I want to know whether the National Dairy Development Board has taken any steps to encourage oilseed production in the North-Eastern Region, particularly in the State of Assam. I want to know the details.

श्री भजन लाल : सभापति महोदया,  
इन सात राज्यों के अलावा

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question  
Hour is over.

12.00NOON

### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

#### Procurement and import of wheat and rice

1. SHRI KAMAL MORAR-  
KA:†

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA :

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

(a) what steps are being taken  
for the procurement of wheat and  
rice in view of the depletion of the  
Buffer Stock to a precariously low  
level of 130 M. Tones;

(b) whether Government also  
propose to import wheat and rice ;  
and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE  
OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD  
AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI  
SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) A State-  
ment giving the information is laid  
on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) to (c) As a result of several  
steps taken for procurement, the stock  
of wheat and rice with all the public  
agencies as on 1-7-1989 was of the  
order of 13.03 million tonnes against  
the corresponding level of 11.71  
million tonnes last year. While the  
present wheat stocks (9.43 million  
tonnes) are considered adequate for  
the requirements of PDS till the  
arrival of the next harvest, the stocks

The question was actually asked  
on the floor of the House by Shri  
Kamal Morarka.

of rice (3.6 million tonnes) needed  
limited augmentation through im-  
ports so as to ensure that the PDS  
supplies are maintained during the  
coming loan months upto October,  
1989. Government has so far  
contracted to import 4.51 lac tonnes  
of rice from Thailand and Vietnam.  
Deliveries are scheduled to be  
completed before the end of Septem-  
ber, 1989.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA 3  
Sir, it is a very serious matter which  
has been engaging the attention of  
the House—supply of foodgrains.  
I am sorry to see from the answer  
of the Minister that he has admitted  
most of the facts that rice and wheat  
stocks are low, that rice is being  
imported. The funniest statement  
in the answer is : "While the present  
wheat stocks are considered adequate  
for the requirements of PDS till the  
arrival of the next harvest...."  
Respectfully I want to submit that  
this is not correct. The Annual  
Report of the Food and Civil Supplies  
Ministry, 1989-90, says I- quote :  
"... As such the allocations under  
PDS have to be rationalised.,  
rationalise means 'reduce'. From  
April to December 1987 the Govern-  
ment have supplied 80.98 lakh  
tonnes of rice and 76.54 lakh tonnes  
of wheat. In the next year rice  
came down to 68.37 lakh tonnes and  
wheat to 62.80 lakh tonnes. Sir,  
the total supply to the PDS has  
been drastically reduced because  
of low availability of wheat and rice.  
Sir, there is a crisis situation in food-  
grains. Government is giving the  
answer that..

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is  
your question?

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA :  
My question is, what steps will the  
Government take to bring back the  
supplies of wheat and rice in the  
Public Distribution System of at  
least the 1987 level, if not higher.  
This is my first question.

SHRI SUKH RAM : Sir, 1987  
was a drought year. As the hon.