

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 not 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 oilseeds-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 सजन लाल : सभापति महोदया,
इन सात राज्यों के अलावा

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question
Hour is over.

12.00 NOON

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 precartous'y 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 :

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 becuase
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,