

completed. There are also nine medium-sized projects. They have completed. There are 65 small projects. Out of 65 projects, 51 have been completed. I have got exact figures about how many farmers benefited because of this. There are so many schemes which we have implemented. So, it will be difficult to give details. So, it will be difficult to give details. But, if the hon. Member wants, I can collect and send the figures to her. I can definitely give some of the figures. Now, if we see the benefit passed to Vidharba farmers under the debt waiver scheme, which the Government of Maharashtra has implemented, the total number of farmers benefit in six districts is 2,65,129 and the total amount which has been provided is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Food reserve in the Country

*106. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: †

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the country is likely to have the food reserve upto 64.7 million tonnes;
- (b) if not, the volume of this food reserve by the end of April, 2009;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that this reserve is significantly higher than the annual requirement of the country;
- (d) if so, the extent by which, these reserves exceed the requirement; and
- (e) whether it is also a fact that the prices of foodgrains in the domestic market are higher than those of international market and if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool by end of April 2009 were 214.07 lakh tons of rice and 298.26 lakh tons of wheat.

At present level of allocations, the annual requirement of food grains (rice and wheat) for TPDS and other welfare schemes, exports on diplomatic grounds and requirement for flood relief, etc. is estimated around 516 lakh tons.

Domestic and international prices of foodgrains such as rice, wheat and maize are not strictly comparable. From time to time domestic wholesale prices of foodgrains may be higher or lower in comparison with international prices.

Water Soluble Fertilizers

*107. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is formulating a new policy that seeks to promote the usage of water soluble fertilizers;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether water soluble fertilizers are being imported from Israel, Norway and other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and prices at which these fertilizers are being imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Presently, Department of Fertilizers administers Concession Scheme on decontrolled Phosphatic & Potassic fertilizers. Accordingly, Di Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP), 12 grades of NPK Complexes, Mono Ammonium Phosphate (MAP), Triple Super Phosphate (TSP), Ammonium Sulphate (AS) and Single Super Phosphate (SSP) are provided to the farmers at the subsidized rates. Water soluble fertilizers are not covered under the Concession Scheme of decontrolled Phosphatic & Potassic fertilizers. However, the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 incorporates liquid and 100% water soluble fertilizers which are allowed to be sold as fertilizers in India.

(c) and (d) The main exporting countries of water soluble fertilizers are Israel, Norway, Belgium, The Netherlands, China, etc. Indian importers import Water Soluble Fertilizers from these countries for marketing in India. It is estimated that import of Water Soluble Fertilizers in India is about 37000-40000 MT annually at present. Prices of water soluble fertilizers vary from time to time and from country to country. However, the current indicative prices of some of important water soluble fertilizers as indicated by the Fertilizer Industry Association are as under:-

Water soluble fertilizer/Product	Price (US\$/tonne)
NPK 19:19:19	1000
Potassium Nitrate (13:0:45)	1000
Calcium Nitrate	400
Mono Ammonium Phosphate (MAP) 12:61:0	800
Mono Potassium Phosphate (MKP) 0-52-34	1200-1400
Sulphate of Potash (SOP)	900-950

Wadhwa Committee Report on PDS

*108. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wadhwa Committee which was set up to look into the functioning of Public Distribution Scheme (PDS) had estimated that nearly 40 per cent of PDS supplies is siphoned off;

(b) if so, whether Government has given any instructions to the State Governments to make PDS fully operational without such manipulations; and