

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

1411. SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to implement a National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme all-over the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of the Scheme;

(c) by when, it is proposed to be implemented; and

(d) whether the scheme envisages for any unemployment allowance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI HARI NATH MISHRA): (a) No such scheme is at present proposed to be implemented.

(b) to (d) The question does not arise.

Additional outlets for sale of Agricultural inputs

1412. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an additional 15,000 outlets for sale of agricultural inputs are proposed to be opened by Government in the dry land areas to achieve foodgrain production target of 142 million tonnes;

(b) whether Government propose to distribute 20,000 seed-cum-fertiliser drills in the rainfed and dry land areas where production is low; and

(c) what other steps Government have taken to improve the agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A number of steps have been taken by the Government to increase the agricultural production, some of which are indicated below:—

(i) The prices of fertilisers have been reduced;

(ii) The support prices of Kharif crops including rice have been increased;

(iii) As a part of Kharif Campaign, the first fortnight of June, 1983 was observed as National Agricultural Inputs Fortnight in order to ensure timely, adequate and easy availability of all the agricultural inputs nearest to the farmers' fields.

(iv) Targets for production and distribution of quality/certified seeds of High Yielding Varieties have been increased;

(v) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for assisting small and marginal farmers has been introduced for 1983-84. Under this scheme, Rs. 5.00 lakhs would be spent during the year in each block of the country to supply minikits of seeds of oilseeds and pulses and fertilisers, to set up minor irrigation facilities and to plant trees has been provided.

(vi) Centrally Sponsored Schemes for development of oilseeds, pulses and other crops are in operation.

Production of seeds by NSC

1413. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Seeds Corporation proposes to launch a massive seed production programme to meet the demand during the next 3-4 years;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposed scheme;