

**Shortfall in Agricultural Production**

2079. SHRI RAMESHWAR SINGH:

SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated shortfall in the anticipated production of foodgrains in 1982 because of the prolonged drought, inadequate rains and floods in some parts of the country;

(b) what is the anticipated gap in the demand and supply position of foodgrains due to the shortfall in production; and

(c) the manner in which the shortfall in the foodgrains is proposed to be met by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) The shortfall in production of foodgrains during the kharif 1982 because of prolonged drought, inadequate rains and floods in some parts of the country is currently anticipated to be 8 to 10 million tonnes as compared to the last year's level. However, a vigorous production drive launched during the current rabi is expected to result in a record production, thereby reducing the shortfall.

(b) and (c) Under the Food Management System adopted by the country, the Government maintains a foodgrains reserve including the operational requirements to the public distribution system and some bufferstock. This reserve is augmented with internal procurement and, whenever necessary, with imported grain. To augment the bufferstock, Government had contracted about 3.95 million tonnes of wheat imports in the past few months, out of which over one million tonnes have been received already and the remaining quantities are being received. Government is making regular

allocations every month to various States in order to meet the requirements of the Public Distribution System.

**Assistance to Fishing Trawlers**

2080. SHRI KRISHNA MOHAN BHAMIDIPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of rising fuel costs of fishing trawlers due to the recent oil price hike; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to assist the existing trawlers to meet the additional burden of rising oil prices?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A scheme is in operation for providing rebate on Central Excise Duty on refined diesel oil for those fishing vessels which are not less than 13.7 M in length and fitted with engines of not less than 150 HP. This scheme provides for—

(i) a general rebate of 50 per cent of the excise duty on diesel; and

(ii) an additional rebate of 50 per cent of the excise duty on each 1.08 KL of diesel for every ton of prawn exported.

Government have not taken a decision so far on the modification of the scheme in operation.

**Annual Plan for Promotion of Sports in the Country**

2081. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have an annual plan for promotion of sports in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the plan;