

Rise in prices of rice, paddy and salt

1752. SHRI ROBIN KAKATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that price of rice, paddy and salt has abnormally risen, in Assam;

(b) -whether it is a fact that large scale smuggling of these commodities to Bangladesh is one of the main causes of this abnormal price rise; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to prevent it and what is the number of smuggling cases detected and the persons arrested in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) There has been no abnormal rise in the prices of rice, paddy and salt in recent months in Assam.

(b) and (c) There are no reports of large scale smuggling of these commodities to Bangladesh. The number of cases of attempted smuggling of negligible quantities detected during the period January—June, 1982 was 42 in the case of rice, 1 in the case of paddy and 16 in the case of salt. However, no persons were arrested in any of these cases. The concerned Government agencies have been alerted to prevent any attempt at smuggling across the border.

Fertilizer Factory at Phulpur

1753. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE; SHRI GHAN SHYAM SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Fertilizer Factory at Phulpur has started production;

(b) if so, what has been the quantity produced so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that the farmers whose land was acquired for the factory were given assurance that a member of each family would be given employment;

(d) if so, how many persons have thus been provided with employment; and

(e) what is the ratio of local people among grade III and IV employees in Phulpur factory?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI): (a) Yes, Sir. The commercial production commenced from 28th March, 1981.

(b) Upto 7th July, 1982, the factory has produced 4.93 lakh tonnes of Urea and 2.90 lakh tonnes of Ammonia.

(c) The concerned farmers were assured to the effect that one person from each family, which has lost a minimum of 30 per cent of land or less than 30 per cent but minimum of one Bigha, would be given employment by the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO).

(d) So far 230 land losers have been provided with employment! by IFFCO Ltd.

(e) Out of 842 Class III and IV employees at Phulpur, 75 per cent are from Uttar Pradesh.

Glut in Sugar Market

1754. SHRI U. R. KRISHNAN; SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated production of sugar for 1982-83;

(b) what is the actual demand for the year 1982-83;

(c) whether it is a fact that monthly consumption of sugar is static resulting in a glut of sugar in the market; and