

say if the production of edible oilseeds during the current year would vary from the target and to what extent.

(c) The quantity of edible oils likely to be imported during the current oil year would depend upon the actual indigenous production of edible oils, demand ascertained from time to time from State Governments, internal as well as international price trend of edible oils, availability of foreign exchange and other relevant factors.

Bonus to paddy growers

1600. SHRI M. R. APPA ROW: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to pay bonus to paddy growers;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action Government have taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have announced a payment of production subsidy of Rs. 10/- per quintal on paddy to farmers with effect from 1st October, 1981.

(c) The Central Government have advised the State Government not to pay any incentive over and above the support price fixed as it will be in violation of Central policy guidelines.

Saving and salvaging of crop in States hit by drought

1601. SHRI GHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to save and salvage the standing crops in various States

which have been hit by the recent drought; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of Central Teams consisting of officers of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and of the Rural Electrification Corporation visited Punjab, Haryana, Western U.P. and Bihar, which were affected by dry spell due to failure of rains at different periods during August, September and October. An officer of the rank of Joint Secretary was also deputed separately to Bihar and West Bengal, where the standing crops were reported to have been affected by the failure of October rains. The object of all these Teams was to ensure adequate supply of electricity, diesel and canal water with a view to saving, to the extent possible, the standing Kharif crops in the drought-affected areas of these States and also to ensure that maximum areas are brought under rabi crops as a compensatory programme.

Based on the observations of these Teams, telex messages were sent by the Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to the Chief Secretaries and Agriculture Production Commissioners of these States and also to the Chairman of the State Electricity Boards. The State Government were requested to ensure supply of electricity for at least 12 hours per day and adequate water flows in the canals so as to provide life-saving irrigation to the standing crops. Adequate quantities of diesel were available in all these States. States were requested to take steps to check the cutting of canals and unauthorised use of canal water by ensuring vigorous police patrolling. A large number of State tubewells were found to be out of order in some of these States. The concerned State Governments were requested to repair and commission them immediately for