

(c) what remedial steps Government have taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The All India Federation of Exercise Books Manufacturers' Associations has represented about the possible shortage of exercise books made out of the concessional paper in the near future, if a rise in the prices of the exercise books in view of the increase in the cost of the paper and labour charges is not approved.

(c) This is engaging the attention of the Government.

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation

1046. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA:
SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA
NAIDU? SHRI K. L. N.
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the response of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation to the Prime Minister's suggestion for an international agreement on limitations of prices of strategic farm outputs; and

(b) whether Government have taken any further action in pursuing this proposal with other countries, if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b) The Fifteenth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and Pacific held at New Delhi from 5th to 13th March, 1980 welcomed the suggestion of the Prime Minister to initiate a move for an international agreement on the limitation of the prices of strategic agricultural inputs. The Conference adopted a resolution which, *inter-alia*, requested the Director General of FAO to convene a meeting of the Fertilizer Commission

of FAO to consider ways and means of stabilising international prices of chemical fertilizers for developing countries, least developed countries and most seriously affected countries.

Deaths due to Crop Failure and Drought in the Country

1047. SHRI C. C. BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: SHRI
GANPAT HIRALAL BHAGAT;

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that millions of people are starving due to successive and widespread crop failure on account of severe drought in the country;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to meet the situation and whether the demands of the various States have been met, if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative what are the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The Government is fully alive about the continuing drought conditions in the country and the misery inflicted by it on the rural community. According to the information available from the States, the drought during kharif has affected about 220 million people in eleven States.

(b) and (c) On the basis of the reports of the Central Teams which visited the drought affected States for on the spot assessment and the recommendations of the High Level Committee On Relief thereon, the Government of India have approved ceilings of additional expenditure for purposes of Central assistance for drought relief.

Following Central assistance was provided to the States:

A ceiling of additional expenditure of Rs. 156.95 crores has been approved by

the Government of India for purposes of Central assistance to the eleven drought affected States. This includes provision for grant of gratuitous relief to the tune of Rs. 12.59 crores to the destitutes, and Rs. 99.91 crores for employment generation schemes to benefit able-bodied persons among the rural poor.

A total quantity of about 25 lakhs metric tonnes of foodgrains under Normal and Special Food for Work Programme have been allocated to drought affected States and Union Territories. Besides, one lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been made available to the states for launching the Food for Nutrition Programmes to cover the most vulnerable sections of the population such as nursing and expectant mothers, preschool children, old and infirm person and physically handicapped individuals.

The provision for gratuitous relief, the acceleration of the employment generation schemes and the Food for Nutrition Programme are all intended to ameliorate the misery of the rural poor.

Short-term loans of Rs. 113.50 crores were sanctioned to the 11 drought-affected States by the Government of India to assist them in the distribution of agricultural inputs.

Besides, the financial assistance, the Government of India have organised inter-Ministerial Committees to monitor, coordinate and stimulate drought relief operations.

Two Statements showing the Central assistance given to the State-wise are attached. [See Appendix CXIII, Annexure Nos. 75 and 76].

Kerosene oil used for lighting Purposes

1048. SHRI SAWAISINGH SOSODIA;

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABI-BULLAH; SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA;

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment to know the quantum of kerosene oil used for lighting purposes in the country every year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL).- (a) A field survey is being conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) to determine the demand for kerosene oil both for lighting and cooking purposes.

(b) Details will be available only after the survey is completed.

Encroachment on Government land by religious institutions

1049. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN:

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1107 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th May, 1979 and to state;

(a) what are the details of the suggestions of the Committee appointed by Government in July, 1977 to go into the question of encroachments by religious institutions on Government land in Delhi;

(b) what are the details of the procedure approved by Government for dealing with religious encroachments; and

(c) whether the suggestions of the Committee and the procedure approved by Government have been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c) The Committee appointed by the Government to consider cases of unauthorised religious shrines in Delhi/ New Delhi divided the encroachments