

(b) The important measures adopted could be enumerated as under:

(i) Improved use of local materials and use of substitute materials for costly and scarce materials like cement and steel are being widely propagated by NBO and CBRI for adoption by all concerned;

(ii) Economic specifications for building construction incorporating the use of local materials and construction techniques have been evolved.

(iii) Experimental demonstration building and housing projects have been undertaken by NBO in different parts of the country to popularise improved use of local substitute materials.

(iv) While sanctioning loan for housing projects, HUDCO is encouraging the use of local materials and also providing loans for setting local building materials industries.

However, the actual usage of a particular type of material depends upon the preference of individuals concerned.

Renovation of Vigyan Bhavan Complex

71. SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU:

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

SHRI KALP NATH RAI:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been decided to attach a hostel to the Vigyan Bhavan complex in New Delhi; and

(b) if so, what will be its likely estimated expenditure and also the expenditure in proposed renovation of the entire Vigyan Bhavan?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) No Hostel is being attached to Vigyan Bhavan Complex. A hostel with 800 suites is being constructed at Lodhi Road, which will be used initially for housing the delegates to the forthcoming UNIDO Conference and later for General Pool accommodation on the same lines as the existing Curzon Road Hostel.

(b) The likely cost of the Hostel will be Rs. 621 lakhs and the likely expenditure of renovation of Vigyan Bhavan will be Rs. 204 lakhs.

Complaints from State Governments to Food Corporation of India

72. SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:

SHRI LADLI MOHAN NIGAM:

SHRI PIARE LALL KUREEL

URF PIARE LALL

TALIB:

SHRI RAMESHWAR SINGH:

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government or F.C.I. have received complaints from the State Governments about shortages in quantity and bad quality of foodgrains supplied to these States from Punjab during the last one year;

(b) if so, what are the names of the States from where such complaints have been received and the details thereof; and

(c) what action Central Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Delhi Administration, West Bengal, Kerala, Bihar and Tripura. The details are as under:—

(i) The complaint received from Delhi Administration was investigated by a joint team of officers from the Department of Food, Government of India, FCI and Delhi Administration who visited 36 Fair Price Shops in and around Delhi. It was reported that the quality of stocks issued was satisfactory. The complaint was mainly against issues of I.R.8 variety of rice which is generally not preferred by the consumers in Delhi though the stocks conformed to the specifications.

(ii) In West Bengal, joint inspection of stocks by a team of officers of the State Government and the FCI is being done and the stocks which are not fit for issue, have been withheld. Only stocks which have been cleared by the joint team as fit for issue are delivered to the Ration Shops. In West Bengal, the consumers prefer boiled rice and complaints are generally lodged when raw rice is issued.

(iii) In Kerala, the main complaint was regarding issue of par-boiled rice which takes more time in cooking. This has been traced to defective pressure parboiling technique adopted by the Millers. However, the stocks issued conformed to specifications laid down by the Government of India. The issue of such rice has been withheld on the request of the State Government.

(iv) In Bihar, stocks conforming to the specifications were only issued. The system of joint sampling at the time of delivery is being strictly enforced.

(v) In Tripura, the stocks of par-boiled rice from Punjab when offered to State Government were rejected on the ground that the same did not conform to the specifications laid down by the Government of India. Some stocks not conforming to the specifications were found to

have been despatched from Punjab and necessary disciplinary action is being taken against the concerned staff.

Ground Water for Rural Electrification Scheme

73. SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU:
DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:
SHRI KALP NATH RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state the progress so far made to utilise groundwater in conjunction with rural electrification schemes?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): In the country the ultimate ground water potential has been assessed as 40 m.ha. against which the present development upto March 1978, is of the order of 19.8 m.ha. in terms of physical units, presently there are 74.25 lakh dugwells, 17 lakh private shallow tubewells and about 30,000 deep public tubewells. The number of pumpsets is estimated as 58 lakh out of which 33 lakh are electrical and 25 lakh diesel. These pumpsets include those fitted on dugwells, borings, tubewells and on surface water lift irrigation schemes. It is assessed that about 80 per cent of these pumpsets are fitted on the groundwater structures.

Rural electrification coupled with supply of assured power is the backbone of all minor irrigation programme in the country particularly the groundwater development because it provides the most economical and efficient means of lifting water, and it is comparatively less expensive than the diesel pumpsets or indigenous water lifting devices. The progress of energisation of pumpsets has been gradually increasing as is evident from the following table. The total groundwater development during the corresponding period has also been mentioned.