

(b) No reports have come to the notice of the Government so far in this regard.

(c) The prices of fertilisers have already been reduced six times since July 1975. In the same period, the Government have afforded a number of fiscal concessions like abolition of reduction of Central Duties, grant of subsidy on phosphatic fertilisers, reduction in the cost of raw materials, introduction of Retention Prices Schemes etc. with a view to keep the prices at low level. The price situation is being kept under constant review and prices are reduced, as and when possible. Moreover, with a view to provide fertilisers at cheap rates to small farmers, subsidy is already being given, subject to certain limits for the purchase of fertilisers, under special programmes of rural development. In addition, the Government is also subsidising the cost of transport of fertilisers to certain remote and hilly areas by bearing the cost of transport up to specified road points, declared as rail heads for the purpose of distribution of imported fertilisers.

ft flood Control System ia the Country

937. SHRI HARKISHAK SINGH
SURJEET: PROF. I. P.
CHATTOPA-DHYAYA:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to do some rethinking about the flood control system in the country after the recent devastating floods; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION¹ (SHRI SUKJEET SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b) The floods this year have

been primarily due to heavy and persistent rainfall, concentrated in limited periods and spread over extensive areas particularly in the Indo-Gangetic basin. Considerable step-up is envisaged in the future outlay on flood control engineering works and much greater emphasis is also being laid on catchment protection and afforestation works.

Considering the recurrent and serious nature of annual floods which affect vast areas of the Indo-Gangetic basin and the large scale inundation experienced this year a Working Group has been constituted to draw up and integrated action programme for flood control schemes, comprising engineering works such as embankments, reservoirs, dams etc., afforestation, soil conservation, which could be implemented in the course of 9 to 7 years for controlling and mitigating the effect of floods within the shortest possible period. The report of this Working Group is expected to be ready in the near future.

.Allotment of Land to Tribals for Cultivation

938. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH
SURJEET: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the land allotted to tribals for cultivation in each State during the last three years; and

(b) the number of persons benefitted thereby Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SUKJEET SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b) Land allotted to tribals for cultivation consists of ceiling surplus lands and waste lands at the disposal of State Governments. This Department monitors only the allotment of ceiling surplus lands. A statement showing the details of ceiling surplus lands allotted to the tribals, during the last three years is appended.