

contents, supply of medicines, payment of honorarium, appointment of additional doctors etc. Their suggestions/recommendations are being implemented. The Government have in most cases already taken action to improve upon the working of the Scheme. Some more steps are being contemplated to improve the Scheme, as suggested in the studies mentioned above. Most of the deficiencies which were noticed by the study teams pertain to the initial period of the Scheme, and with the passage of time and with streamlining of the Scheme. These have declined and it is hoped that they will disappear in due course.

Plans for Construction of Bungalows in the President's Estate for Housing Ministers

*240. SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any plans for the construction of 40 bungalows in the President's estate at a cost of about Rs. 1.60 crores for housing Central Ministers; and

(b) if so, what is the proposed plinth area of each bungalow and what would be the per square foot cost of construction of these bungalows?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) and (b) It has been decided to construct smaller houses for Ministers with about 3,000 sq. ft. of living space. Plans for their construction are under preparation.

Non-Utilisation of Imported Fertiliser

+688. SHRI U. R. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of imported fertiliser was not distributed by Government for a

long time resulting in deterioration of its quality; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b) During 1974-75 and 1975-76 large quantum of complex fertilisers of various grades had to be imported because of non-availability of adequate quantity of straight nitrogenous fertilisers and high concentration phosphatic fertilisers to the international market. Unfortunately, some of the grades did not find ready market due to high prices, unfamiliarity of the farmers about the grades, etc.

Out of 11.33 lakh tonnes of complex fertilisers imported during these years, the existing stocks are about 4 lakh tonnes. A drive has since been launched to dispose of these fertilisers by the Public Sector Fertiliser Companies through their distribution channels after standardisation. The quality of these stocks, by and large, has not deteriorated. However, substandard stocks will be sold as per the provisions of the Fertiliser (Control) Order.

Fertilizer Pricing Policy

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

(a) whether the Central Government have received any memorandum from the Punjab Government regarding the fertilizers and its pricing policy; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The memorandum is under consideration of the Government of India.

+Previously Unstarred Question 17 transferred from the 17th July, 1978.

Statement

The present position in respect of items mentioned in the memorandum of Punjab Government

Sl. No.	Item	Suggestion of the State Government	Present position																					
1	Reduction in the prices of fertiliser so that they can come down to 1974 level.	Fertiliser prices should be brought to the level of 1974.	<p>The prices of fertilisers were reduced six times during the period 18-7-1975 to 12-10-1977. The present level of price of fertiliser is lower than the same as on 1-6-74. This will be evident from the following :—</p> <table><tr><th>Name of fertiliser.</th><th colspan="2">Price (Rs. per tonne)</th></tr><tr><td></td><th>As on 1-6-74</th><th>As on date</th></tr><tr><td>Urea 46% (N) .</td><td>2000</td><td>1550</td></tr><tr><td>Amm. Sulphate</td><td>925</td><td>925</td></tr><tr><td>D.A.P. .</td><td>3005</td><td>2210</td></tr><tr><td>CAN 26 % (N)</td><td>1145</td><td>1060</td></tr><tr><td>MOP .</td><td>1220</td><td>795</td></tr></table>	Name of fertiliser.	Price (Rs. per tonne)			As on 1-6-74	As on date	Urea 46% (N) .	2000	1550	Amm. Sulphate	925	925	D.A.P. .	3005	2210	CAN 26 % (N)	1145	1060	MOP .	1220	795
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2	Abolition of sales tax	Fertilisers may be exempted from sales tax.	The State Government have been suitably advised. Some of the States expressed their inability to do so on the ground of difficult resources position; others have tried to rationalise or reduce them. However; the question of exemption of fertilisers from Central Sales Tax under the Central Sales Act is also under consideration.																					
3	Rationalisation of prices of phosphatic fertilisers and mixtures.	Unit price of P205 in different complexes should be at the same level and the price should be fixed on per kg. basis of nutrient (P205).	This is under consideration.																					
4	Reduction in Excise Duty.	Excise Duty may be reduced and the benefits may be passed on to the farmers.	The Central Government have already reduced Excise Duty on Single-Super phosphate and Triple Super Phosphate from 15% to 7½% . In the case of Muriate of Potash the Counter-vailing Customs Duty at the rate of 15% was abolished. The benefit has been passed on to the farmers.																					
5	Increasing the availability of credit for distribution of fertilisers by institutional agencies.	Short-term loans sanctioned by the Central Govt. may be given for the entire quantity of pool fertiliser purchased by the State Governments united by available for both pool and non-pool fertilisers purchased by the institutional agencies in the State.	The credit mentioned in the Memorandum relates to the short term credit given by the Deptt. of Agriculture. In addition to this credit, the Commercial Banks as well as the Cooperative Banks also give distribution credit to the institutional agencies. Efforts are being made to increase the availability of credit in coming years.																					

Sl. No.	Item	Suggestion of the State Government	Present position
6	Introduction of storage of Pool fertilisers in bulk in the State and handling of bulk fertilisers.	Food Corporation may resort to bulk storage in the State at 2 or 3 places from where fertilisers can be supplied. The Govt. of India may also make arrangements for bulk handling on urgent bill	A pilot project for setting up of bulk storage and also for bulk handling is under consideration. The World Bank have agreed to provide necessary assistance in this regard.

Setting up of a Book Shop by the National Book Trust of India

690. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the initial expenses on the setting up of the bookshop by the National Book Trust of India in Delhi;

(b) what is the monthly rent of the building housing the bookshop and what are its establishment charges; and

(c) what is the quantum of sales effected at the bookshop during 1977-78?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) The initial expenditure on the setting up of the bookshop was Rs. 10,613.60. This amount includes cost of such items as display equipment, floor coverings, electrical fittings, sign boards, publicity etc.

(b) The monthly rent of the building (about 6000 sq. ft.) is Rs. 7000. The bookshop is located only in one room of about 528 sq. ft. measuring approximately one twelfth of the total area of the building. The remaining accommodation in the building is used for Trust's office purposes.

At present only one Clerk and one part-time attendant are employed in

the bookshop. The cost of this establishment is about Rs. 626 p.m.

(c) As the bookshop was formally declared open only on 17th June, 1978, the question of sales at the bookshop during 1977-78 does not arise. It may, however, be mentioned that after the opening of the bookshop on 17th June, 1978 and upto 10th July, 1978 about 5000 copies of books under different series, valued at about Rs. 11,000 were sold through the shop.

Baweja Committee Report on the DDA

691. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:
SHRI JAGJIT SINGH
ANAND:

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

(a) whether Government propose to place the Baweja Committee report on the DDA on the Table of the House; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) and (b) The Committee of Experts (known as Baweja Committee) comprised of officials only, and was set up to examine specific questions. Its report is not intended to be published.