

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 28th January, 1976/ the 8th Magha, 1897 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock.
Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

† Consumption of Fertilizers

*420. SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to issue any guidelines for farmers on the proper use of fertilizers ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what other steps are being taken to reduce the fertilizers consumption in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) Guidelines have already been issued to the State Governments on the proper use of fertilisers.

(b) The guidelines are placed on the Table of the House.

(c) The guidelines placed on the table of the House are intended to prevent wasteful consumption of fertilizers and promote their proper use. Action is being taken by the Government to stimulate the consumption of fertilizers in the country so as to enable rapid increase in agricultural production.

Statement

Guidelines on proper use of fertilizers

1. In potential areas package of practices should be adopted and all limiting factors should be removed so that there is maximum return from the use of fertilisers.

†Transferred from the 19th January, 1976. Previously numbered as Starred Question No. 240.

2. Use of NPK should be ensured, because interaction of these nutrients has shown that wasteful use of excess N can be avoided.

3. The present dose of N application could be moderated to a level at which there is maximum output.

4. Farmers should be trained about the use of right type of fertilisers. They should also be advised about the right time and method of application.

5. Split dose of N application should be advocated to avoid losses due to leaching etc.

6. Application of zinc sulphate should be ensured in wheat growing areas as a prophylactic measure @ 10—20 kg. zinc sulphate per hectare.

7. All steps should be taken to eradicate weeds with the help of weedicides and mechanical methods in order to utilise applied nutrients by growing crops to the maximum extent possible.

8. Better and timely plant protection measure should be adopted. Sprayers and other relevant equipment should be kept in working order well in advance of actual operations.

9. F.A.I. may request all fertiliser manufacturers to organise special campaigns for the efficient use of fertilisers

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA : I am grateful to the hon. Minister for the guidelines which have been distributed to us. I would like to know whether the use of these precious fertilisers is being encouraged. Are group meetings of farmers addressed by experts on the subject or is it done otherwise ? If so, what other methods are adopted in this regard ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Group meetings are one of the accepted methods of propagating and educating farmers on the proper use of fertilisers. Farmers' training camps are held at the Tehsil level where representatives of universities and experts belonging to the extension wing participate

and technical knowledge is imparted. Extension is a very important method and it is being done.

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA : May I know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken or are being contemplated to be taken for propagating the use of organic fertilisers on a scientific basis on as large a scale as possible and also for popularising the use of organic fertilisers by the farmer as a substitute for imported fertilisers ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Organic fertiliser cannot be a substitute for inorganic fertilisers, but they can be complementary to each other. I am glad the hon. Member has asked this question. The Government of India has taken a number of decisions in regard to the use of organic fertilisers which are available in our country. We have provided now Rs. 9 crores for encouraging the establishment of organic compost plants in cities having a population of three lakhs and more. Already some plants are coming up. One plant has come up in Ahmedabad. Then, we have two hundred sewage and sullage utilisation schemes for which the Central Government's assistance is available. We have also an ambitious programme of setting up one lakh Gobar gas plants all over the country, of which 12,000 have come into being. This programme is going on very well, for the first time, on a countrywide scale.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : Arising out of guideline No. 7, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government is aware that the weed perthanium is spreading throughout the country, causing a lot of havoc in proper agriculture production and whether the Government is aware that Hansa 529 is the only chemical which can destroy this weed and, if so, what steps the Government is taking to see that this particular weed is destroyed as early as possible.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : It is true that perthanium grass has a very devastating effect on the ecology. It contains

some poison also and it destroys all other vegetation. The particular chemical, which the hon. Member has mentioned, the Ministry is aware of, but it is very expensive. I think only by involving the masses and by mass action this grass perhaps can be eliminated. The use of this chemical would be very expensive and some of our agricultural universities are trying to find out whether some biological control is possible.

SHRI B. RACHAIAH : May I know whether any survey has been conducted to find out what percentage of holdings have been covered by the package programme envisaged by the Minister ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Sir, it would be very difficult for me to give the precise number of holdings, the percentage of holdings, but I can share the information that my Ministry has with the hon'ble Member and the hon'ble House, that, by and large, in regard to fertilizer use—our package of practices—the development has been extremely uneven in this country. We have found that almost 70 per cent of fertilizer in this country is used in 45 districts. And even in the regions, even in the districts, where it is used, the level of distribution is very uneven. The present level of prices has created certain problems for small farmers in regard to the use of fertilizers we are aware of it and we are looking into this problem.

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD : Sir, there is a feeling among the farmers that these fertilizers are not much useful in the non-irrigated land, and that these fertilizers do harm to the crops in non-irrigated land. Is there any fact in this ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : I think I would like the hon'ble Member to dispel any such impression. There have been research studies carried out. But despite mentioning the factual position by my Ministry from time to time these questions are asked from very knowledgeable quarters. I think there is no ground or justification

whatsoever to conclude that the use of fertilizers has adverse effect. But any use in excess does create problems, just as when somebody consumes more food it creates problems.

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD : For non-irrigated land.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : For non-irrigated land or for some crops, the use of fertilizers is according to certain practices.

SHRI RAMLAL D. PARIKH : Sir, will the hon'ble Minister let us know, apart from expanding the facilities of gas plants—he mentioned that one lakh new gas plants are being installed—what is happening to the existing gas plants that are there ? What are their operational difficulties ? Are they functioning efficiently ? Has any research or survey been carried out to examine thoroughly whether the gas plants which are in operation are working efficiently ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Sir, our information, by and large, is that the gas plants which have been established are working well but there is considerable scope for improvement ; and our research organisations and extension workers are looking into the problem as to how the capital cost can be brought down and how the end-product can be better used and the gas can be put to better use. All these problems are being attended to.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

Applicability of Delhi Rent Control (Amendment) Ordinance to Central Government Employees vacating Government Accommodation in Delhi

***421. SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH :**

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT : †

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Lakshmi Kumari Chundawat.

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

(a) whether the Central Government employees in Delhi, who have their own houses at their place of duty and have vacated Government accommodation allotted to them in pursuance of Government orders before their own houses could be got vacated, are proposed to be given the benefit of the special provision of Section 14-A of the Delhi Rent Control (Amendment) Ordinance, 1975, after they have shifted temporarily to some other accommodation ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH) : (a) There is no need for such a proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

Sir, lest the answer should be misleading, with your permission, I may add that I said "There is no need for such a proposal" because the categories mentioned in the question are already covered by the existing enactment.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT : May I know whether on the one hand Government employees' houses are not being vacated by the tenants—nor do they pay even the monthly rent in order to pressurise them to paying gratification money—and on the other, they are charged market rent for the Government accommodation, which they are forced to retain until the proceedings are over ? If the protection of Section 14-A is not allowed to them, they have to pay market rent, which in some cases is 5 to 10 times the usual rent. Why the protection of Section 14-A is not allowed to such of the Government employees who obtain a certificate from the Director of Estates to the effect that they are in occupation of Government accommodation and are liable to pay market rent for Government accommodation with them from such and such date ?