

502 के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा 1972-73 के वर्ष के दौरान रबी की फसल के समय आपात कृषि उत्पादन कार्यक्रम के अधीन की गई 50 करोड़ रुपये की वित्तीय अनियमितताओं से संबंधित लेखा-परीक्षा-पैराग्री की जांच पूरी कर ली है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इस वषय मे क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

†[Financial irregularities in the F.C.I.]

\*447. DR. RAMKRIPAL SINHA:

SHRI V. K. SAKHLECHA:

SHRI B. S. SHEKHAWAT:

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:

SHRIMATI MARGARET

ALVA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 502 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th August, 1974 and state:

(a) whether Government have since completed the processing of the audit paras relating to the Rs. 50 crore financial irregularities committed by the Food Corporation of India under the Emergency Agricultural Production Programme at the time of Rabi Crop in the year 1972-73; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in the matter?]

कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अण्णासाहेब शिन्दे) (क) और (ख) निदेशक, लेखा परीक्षा (खाद्य) से भारतीय खाद्य निगम को 13.78 करोड़ रुपये मूल्य

के जो 46 लेखा-आपत्ति-अलेख प्राप्त हुए हैं उनमें से ऐसे 27 अलेखों का उत्तर निगम ने लेखा परीक्षक को भेज दिया है और शेष 19 उनके विचाराधीन हैं।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNA-SAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). Out of a total number of 46 draft audit paras for a money value of Rs. 13.78 crores received by the Food Corporation of India from the Director of Audit (Food) the Corporation have already sent their replies to the audit on 27 such paras and the remaining 19 are under their examination.]

**Sale of old stock of fertilizer**

\*448. SHRI G. C. TOTU:

SHRI SYED NIZAMUDDIN:

SHRIMATI MARGARET

ALVA:

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

(a) whether there are wide-spread complaints that at the time of the recent rise in the prices of fertilisers, the stocks purchased at preincrease price were clandestinely withheld by the Government distribution agencies and private dealers with a view to make exorbitant profits by showing fictitious antedated sale; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make an inquiry into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) Government of India have not received any complaint about clandestine withholding of stock of fertilisers by the private and public

distribution agencies at the time of the last increase of prices, and about subsequent ante-dated sales by those agencies to reap exorbitant profits.

(b) Does not arise.

### **Procurement drive in foodgrains in West Bengal**

\*449. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the procurement drive of foodgrains in West Bengal has totally failed;

(b) if so, what are the details of the procurement made in that State during the last six months;

(c) whether the Central Government propose to increase the supply of rice to West Bengal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASHEB P. SHINDE): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### **Statement**

(a) and (b) While the procurement during the marketing season 1973-74 was lower than expected, it would be incorrect to say that the procurement drive in West Bengal had completely failed.

A major portion of the procurement is made in the earlier part of the marketing season and out of a total procurement of 1.59 lakh tonnes of rice 9,600 tonnes was procured during the last six months of the marketing season i.e. from May to October, 1974.

(c) and (d) The reasonable requirements of rice for the Public Distribution System in the State of West Bengal are being met from the Central

Pool, taking into consideration the overall availability of rice in the Central Pool, relative needs of other States, local market availability and other relevant factors.

### **Wide-spread incidence of Small Pox**

\*450. SHRI B. S. SHEKHAWAT:

SHRI S. A. HASHMI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on account of the widespread incidence of small pox in some parts of the country this year, thousands of persons have died and many more have become disabled or blind;

(b) if so, what is the number of casualties compared to those in the previous year; and

(c) what are the reasons for the spread of small pox and what precautionary measures were and are proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### **Statement**

14 States and all the Union Territories are now free from smallpox. In Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Orissa and West Bengal, the number of active smallpox foci ranges from 1 to 5. Assam has 31 active foci while U. P. has 50 and Bihar has 251. According to the present trend of elimination of outbreaks, it should be possible to make the country free of smallpox sometime in 1975.

Earlier in the year, the high incidence of smallpox was mainly due to intensive case search carried out throughout the country to unearth