

High Power Committee on National Capital Region

*612. SHRI S. A. HASHMI : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the High-Powered Committee appointed in connection with the National Capital Region has not met for the last several months;

(b) if so, the number of meetings held so far and the important decisions taken at these meetings; and

(c) what progress has since been made for the re-development of the ring towns of the National Capital Region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The High Powered Board for the National Capital Region, as reconstituted on 31st May, 1973, has held three meetings on 4th August, 1973, 17th September, 1973 and 27th September, 1974. The Board during its second meeting had approved the broad National Capital Regional Plan and appointed a committee to consider matters of detailed planning. During its third meeting, the Board approved the inclusion of the entire Alwar Tehsil in the National Capital Region and approved the broad features of the urban land and housing policies for adoption by the constituent States of the National Capital Region and further approved the settlement pattern and transport network relating to the Sub-Regional Plans for Haryana and U. P. The Board also decided that each of the constituent States should identify one Priority Town within its Sub-Region and draw up detailed development project.

2. The State Governments concerned have identified the Priority Towns within their Sub-Regions and are preparing detailed project reports.

†Fall in Demand of Fertilisers

*410. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that fall in fertilizer demand by States has caused a fertiliser glut;

†Transferred from the 2nd December, 1974

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

(c) how Government propose to make use of this fertiliser; and

(d) what is the estimated loss on this account ?

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

Statement

(a) Reports were received indicating a fall in the off-take of fertilisers in some of the States in the period June-August, 74, as compared to the corresponding period of 1973. The fall in demand for fertilisers was for a short period and not so steep as to cause a glut in fertiliser availability.

(b) The decline in demand was assessed as being due to a number of factors like natural calamities of droughts and floods, low water availability due to power shortage, increase in prices requiring greater financial investment, non-availability of adequate credit, changes in the internal distribution system of fertilisers in some States, etc. These were, however, by and large temporary factors and mostly required some adjustment in financial and internal distribution arrangements, except in a few States like Gujarat and Orissa, where the drought is continuing or Haryana where water scarcity continues due to power shortage. The off-take is already showing trends of recovery in most of the States and the relatively heavy stocks with the States at the end of Kharif are reported to be coming down during Rabi particularly after the rains in the beginning of the season.

(c) Taking the overall position in the country as a whole, fertiliser is not surplus. In fact, the availability is short of the requirements. As regards individual cases of low off-take like Gujarat, arrangements were made to divert allocations and supplies from manufacturers and Pool to other States. There is heavy demand for additional allocations or supplies of fertilisers from several States particularly Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Karnataka.

(d) Does not arise.