

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): (a) It is a fact that from about the latter half of the year 1972, there has been a gap between the demand and availability of fertilisers in the States. The Government of India have, however, no information irrational allocation of fertilisers to different crops by some State Governments. The procedure is that the Government of India allots fertilisers to each State for each season. The pattern of distribution of fertilisers within the State is left to the State Governments.

(b) Does not arise.

Compliance with the national forest policy

*229. SHRI H. S. NARASIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States which have failed to fall in line with the requirements laid down in the National Forest Policy for the percentage of geographical area required under that policy for retention of forests;

(b) whether it is a fact that indiscriminate felling of forests is responsible for frequent droughts and famines in such States; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to ensure that such States comply with the National Forest Policy and prevent indiscriminate felling of forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) The National Forest Policy of 1952 has laid down that 1/3rd of the total geographical area of the country as a whole should be under forests, the proportions being 60% in the Himalayas the Deccan and other mountaineous tracts and 20% in the Plains. As against the above, we have in the country about 22.7%. However, no specific percentage has been laid down separately for each State and Union Territory. In certain States like Assam, (Including Meghalaya & Mizoram), Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Orissa and Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands & Arunachal Pradesh & Dadra & Nagar Haveli,

the percentage of the forest area to the geographical area is higher and in the remaining States and Union Territories, the Forest area is less than that laid down in the National Forest Policy.

(b) Yes Sir. Indiscriminate felling of forests is one of the factors responsible for frequent floods, droughts and famines in such States.

(c) The Government of India through the Central Board of Forestry which is an All India Advisory Body under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Agriculture with State Forest Ministers as Members has recommended, time and again, against disforestation and urging deficient States to augment the forest areas by afforesting suitable waste lands.

The National Development Council at its meeting in Feb. 1973 endorsed the proposal that no forest area be disforested for expansion of Agriculture and further that to compensate for the areas already disforested, suitable wastelands be afforested.

So far an area of 2.2 million hectares of existing forest land has been brought under man-made forests to improve stocking and growth.

Costs of Agricultural Inputs

*230. SHRI VISWANATH MENON:

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of essential agricultural inputs has risen by 40 to 50 per cent during the last three years; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): (a) Yes Sir, except in the case of electricity, tractors and pumps.

(b) The cost of various inputs such as fertilisers, pesticides, agricultural machinery, improved seeds, diesel oil and lubricating oil etc., has gone up during the last

three years. This has been due to the increase in the cost of raw materials, wages, power etc., besides the rise in the cost of imported fertilisers, pesticides etc.

Implementation of Pay scales of school teachers as recommended by the Kothari Commission

*231. SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state the number of States which have, during Fourth Five Year Plan period implemented pay scales in respect of primary and secondary school teachers as recommended by the Kothari Commission?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): All States except four are considered to have implemented the Kothari Commission's recommendations in respect of Primary School teachers. In the case of Secondary school teachers all States except six can be considered to have implemented the recommendations.

Development of Paradeep Port

*232. SHRI K. B. CHETTRI:

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN:

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI.

SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARI:

DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made in the works on Paradeep Port:

(b) whether the financial allocation during the Fourth Five Year Plan for the Port was utilised in full; and

(c) what are the main proposals in this regard for the Fifth Five Year Plan period and the outlay involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING & TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMLAPATI TRI-

PATHI): (a) The progress of the main works at Paradeep Port is as under:—

General Cargo Berth.—The construction has almost been completed. Dredging operations in front of the cargo berth are expected to be taken up soon. The berth is expected to be commissioned in early, 1975.

Railway siding.—Port railway is likely to be completed during the next financial year.

Slipway.—Civil works are nearing completion. Action has been initiated to procure mechanical equipment for the slipway.

Iron Ore Handling Plant.—Consultant's Project Report has been received recently. It is under scrutiny.

Seawall.—Contracts for all the reaches have been awarded.

(b) Loans amounting to Rs. 1620 lakhs released in the Fourth Plan have been fully utilised by the Port.

(c) The following are the more important features of development of Paradeep Port envisaged in the Fifth Plan:—

(i) Completion of the construction of cargo berth.

(ii) Acquisition of floating craft (tugs, launches and barges).

(iii) Completion of the sea-walls and repairs to breakwater.

(iv) Procurement of navigational aids.

(v) Modification of the ore handling plant to cater to the export of four million tonnes of iron ore. (The total outlay in the draft Fifth Plan is Rs. 16.25 crores, out of which about one-seventh will spill over to the Sixth Plan).

Inland Water Transport via Bangladesh

*233. DR. R. K. CHAKRAVARTI:
SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA:
DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD:
SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:
SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND PORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed plan for inland water transport via Bangladesh has been finalised; and