

specific steps have been taken to reduce the expenditure incurred by the farmers in the production of foodgrains, it may be mentioned that the general measures for agricultural development such as evolution and cultivation of high yielding varieties, extension of irrigation facilities, etc. have helped to reduce the expenditure per unit of production.]

Supply of milk powder in West Bengal

549. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quota of milk powder allotted to the West Bengal Government for 1973 has since been despatched to that State by the Indian Dairy Corporation;

(b) what was the allotment and what was the actual supply made;

(c) whether the State Government sought the permission of the Central Government to import milk powder from Denmark in view of the failure to supply requisite quantity of power to that State; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) Except a small balance quantity of 490 tonnes, the quota of skim milk powder allotted for the Greater Calcutta Milk Supply scheme for 1973-74 has been supplied. The balance quantity is likely to be supplied by 31-3-1974.

(b) For the year 1973-74 the allotment of skim milk powder under commercial quota is 1900 tonnes and the entitlement under Operation Flood 1715 tonnes for the Greater Calcutta Milk Supply Scheme. The actual supplies made are 1410 tonnes against commercial quota and 1915 tonnes under Operation Flood.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Floods on account of deforestation of Himalayan foothills

550. SHRI O. P. TYAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Lester R. Brown of the Overseas Development Council, Washington has been having periodic assignments in India during the last 20 years;

(b) whether Mr. Brown has recently issued a statement to the effect that last year's devastating floods in some parts of India were the result of indiscriminate felling of trees and rapid deforestation of the Himalayan foothills; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting up of five sports schools

551. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUN DA WAT: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the proposal to open five sports schools in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b). The Scheme is yet to be finalised in accordance with allocations proposed for the Fifth Plan. The question of their location would be decided in the context of scheme as finalised.