

already been accepted in principle by the Central and State Governments. Within the limited funds available for development of education in the Fifth Five Year Plan, efforts will be made to give a new orientation to educational system in the country.

**Enquiry against food corporation of India for supply of adulterated fertilizers**

\*320. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT :

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA :

SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH :

SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHARA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any inquiry has been ordered against the Food Corporation of India for the supply of adulterated and under-weighted imported fertilisers to various States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Statement**

(a) and (b) No formal enquiry has been ordered against the Food Corporation of India in respect of the alleged supply of adulterated and under-weight imported fertilisers. In fact, as far as adulteration of imported fertilizers is concerned, no complaints have been received from the State Governments, except for a complaint from Punjab Govt. in the middle of December 1973 in respect of some fertilizer bags received from Bhavnagar port by the Punjab State Agro-Industries Corporation at Bhatinda. On receipt of this complaint, an officer of this Ministry was deputed to make an on-the-spot check

into the matter. A committee was also appointed by the Punjab Government to enquire into this and the report of this committee has been received. Out of a total receipt of 78,380 bags at Bhatinda, the committee identified 70 bags as being adulterated. The check by the officer of the Ministry showed that these bags contained sweepings which are normally collected at the bag end of the clearance of fertilizers discharged from ships. In this case, however, these bags containing sweepings were also mixed with materials like dust, coal, etc., which resulted in some reduction in the percentage of the nutrient contents as compared to the prescribed percentage. There was nothing to suggest that it was an international adulteration of the material. The admixture of impurities and inert materials was due to lack of proper care by the concerned FCI labour and staff. The FCI have been asked to ensure that such careless bagging and despatch are avoided in future.

As regards short-weight in bags of imported fertilizers, complaints have been received from State Governments from time to time and the FCI have been asked several times to exercise greater vigilance in this regard and improve the position. The problem of under-weighted bags is connected with various problems during the import, handling and discharge of fertilizers in the case of bagged as well as bulk cargo. These problems are the bursting of bags in the shipholds and in the course of discharge, excessive use of hooks by labour at ports, the absence of mechanical handling and weight standardisation in the case of bulk cargo and the need to have a quick rate of bagging to avoid demurrage and wharfage. The long term solution of the problem lies in mechanisation of unloading and handling of fertilizers at ports. Such arrangements have already been sanctioned for Kandla and Haldia ports and it is also proposed to make similar mechanized arrangements at Madras, Vizag and the Bombay ports during the Fifth Plan. In the meantime, short-term measures like fork-lift trucks, portable stitching machines, pre-determined

weight scales and chute wagons have been introduced at a number of ports.

In the case of the particular complaint received from the Government of Punjab in December 1973, a random test check at the Bhatinda Railway Station, jointly done by the officer of the Union Government and the officers of the State Government revealed that six bags were over-weighted, two were of standard weight, one was under-weight within the tolerance limit of 1 to 2 per cent and only one was under-weight. But the total weight of these bags was in excess of the standard weight. A similar test check of 10 bags in the warehouse of the Punjab State Corporation at Bhatinda revealed an overall excess weight. However, at one place (Rampuraphool) excessive under-weight was observed. But since this material had been transported by trucks over 40 to 50 kms. after being taken from the Railway Station, the shortages could have occurred during the road transit, specially because no overall shortage was observed during the test check at Bhatinda Railway Station.

The FCI have been instructed to take all necessary steps to improve the accuracy of the weight standardisation of fertilizer bags.

#### भूमि का विकास

\*321. श्री जगदम्बो प्रसाद यादव : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि पांचवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में कछारी भूमि के विकास के लिये किन कारणों से निधियां अलग से निश्चित नहीं की गई हैं ?

#### [Development of Land

\*321. SHRI J. P. YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state what are the reasons for not earmarking funds for the development of alluvial land in the Fifth Five Year Plan?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बी० पी० मोर्य) : भूमि विकास राज्यों का विषय है। तथापि यह उल्लेखनीय है कि देश में भूमि विकास

के लिये पांचवी योजना में अनेक कार्यक्रम हाथ में लेने का प्रस्ताव है। उत्पादिता और उर्वरता बनाये रखने, लवणीय, क्षारीय और सेम वाली भूमि को कृषि योग्य बनाने तथा "टेबल" भूमि को बचाने के लिये कृषि भूमि में मृदा तथा जल संरक्षण सम्बन्धी उपायों के अलावा समूचे देश के चुने हुए 50 बड़े और मध्यम मिर्चाई कमांडों में एक समेकित कृषि विकास कार्यक्रम हाथ में लेने का प्रस्ताव है। भूमि ममत्व और भूमि को ठीक-ठाक करना इस कार्यक्रम का एक महत्वपूर्ण अंग होगा। इस कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत भारत सरकार बराबर आधार पर न केवल सर्वेक्षणों आदि की लागत पूरी करने के लिए सहमत हो गई है बल्कि वह छोटे और सीमान्त किमानों को राजसहायता देने और ऐसे किमानों के लिये जोकि अन्यथा भूमि विकास बैंकों/वाणिज्यिक बैंकों से ऋण लेने के लिए पात्र नहीं हैं, राज्य सरकार को शत प्रतिशत ऋण देने के लिए भी सहमत हो गई है।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI B. P. MAURYA) : Development of land is a State subject. It may, however, be mentioned that a number of programmes are proposed to be taken up in the Fifth Plan for development of land in the country. Apart from the soil and water conservation measures in agricultural lands for maintaining the productivity and fertility, reclamation of saline, alkaline and water-logged lands and protection of table lands, an integrated agricultural development programme is proposed to be taken up in 50 selected major and medium irrigation commands all over the country where land-levelling and shaping would constitute an important component of this programme. Under this programme, the Govt. of India have agreed not only to meet the cost of surveys, etc. on matching basis but also to provide subsidies to small and marginal farmers, as well as extend loans to the State Govt. on 100 per cent basis for such of the farmers as are otherwise ineligible to get loans from Land Development Banks/Commercial Banks.]