

Gap Between Demand and Supply of Fertiliser

184. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gap between demand and supply (internal production) of fertiliser is widening;

(b) if so, the magnitude of the deficit; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to step up production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): (a) The demand for fertilisers in the country is increasing at a rate faster than the increase in the domestic production of fertilisers.

(b) During the Rabi 1973-74 season the demand of fertilisers is expected to be 21.36 lakh tonnes of N+P against the estimate of availability from the domestic production of 7.25 lakh tonnes of N+P.

(c) The efforts to step up production of fertilisers fall broadly in 2 categories namely (i) optimising production in existing unit and (ii) creation of additional capacity to meet demand.

I. Optimising of Production—Some of the elder and ageing plants like these at Sindri, some section of the F.A.C.T. at Alwaye and Varanasi have been suffering from a number of operational and other problems which in turn affected their production efficiency.

Every endeavour is being made to overcome these difficulties and optimise production. Remedial measures on the following lines have been initiated for the purpose.

(i) Repairs and renovations of old sections and carrying out a rationalisation scheme in the Sindri factory:

(ii) Modification of certain sections of the Trombay unit;

(iii) Arrangements for steady supply of power to the units;

(iv) Installation of supplementary naphtha gasification facilities to produce synthesis gas and initiation of steps to maximise coke oven gas supply to the fertiliser Plant at Rourkela;

(v) Modifications in various sections of ammonia and urea plants at Neyveli;

(vi) Repairs and renovations in certain sections of the Alwaye Unit.

II. Creation of fresh capacity—The Approach Documents for the Fifth Plan envisages a production target of 39.12 lakh tonnes of fertilisers in terms of nitrogen by 1978-79 and a total capacity build up of 5.5 million tonnes. To achieve this target, Government have decided in principle to set up five fertiliser projects of standard size in the public sector during the Fifth Plan period. A few plants are in addition likely to be set up in the private sector for which proposals have been received.

Price of Wheat

185. SHRI M. B. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Agricultural Prices Commission has asked the Union Government to announce a guaranteed price for wheat before the rabi sowing season begins;

(b) whether APC has also recommended a higher procurement price for wheat;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE):

(a) to (c) On the recommendation of the Agricultural Prices Commission and after taking the relevant factors into consideration, the Government have announced the guaranteed support prices for indigenous red and common varieties of wheat. The A.P.C. has recommended that under normal circumstances, the prices should be left undisturbed. The

question of fixing procurement prices will be considered at the appropriate time before the rabi marketing season.

Election to the Delhi University Students' Union

186. SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large amount of money was spent by the candidates in the election of the Delhi University Students' Union;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted an inquiry *suo motu* to find out the source from where the money was diverted to these elections; and

(c) if so, what are the conclusions arrived at by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): (a) Government have no information in this regard.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

विशाखापत्तनम् तथा बम्बई बन्दरगाहों पर सड़ा हुआ गेहूँ

187. श्री ओम् प्रकाश त्यागी :

श्री जी० आर० पाटिल :

श्रीमती सुमित्रा जी० कुलकर्णी :

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि विदेशों से आयात किए गए गेहूँ की भारी मात्रा विशाखापत्तनम् तथा बम्बई बन्दरगाहों पर रखरखाव में बर्ती गई अमावधानी के कारण सड़ा गई है ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो प्रत्येक बन्दरगाह पर या जहाजों में कितनी मात्रा में गेहूँ सड़ा गया है ;

(ग) सरकार ने इस सड़े हुए गेहूँ का निपटान किस प्रकार किया ; और

(घ) इस सड़े हुए गेहूँ के निपटान के लिए परिवहन पर कितना खर्च हुआ ?

†[Rotten Wheat at Visakhapatnam and Bombay Ports]

187. SHRI OM PRAKASH TYAGI:
SHRI G. R. PATIL:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of wheat imported from abroad has become rotten at the ports of Visakhapatnam, and Bombay due to careless handling;

(b) if so, the quantum of wheat that has rotten at each of the ports or ships;

(c) the manner in which the rotten wheat was disposed of by Government; and

(d) the amount of money spent on transportation of the rotten wheat for disposal?]

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अण्णासाहेब पो० शिन्दे) : (क) से (घ) विशाखापत्तनम् और बम्बई बन्दरगाहों पर कोई आयातित गेहूँ खराब नहीं हुआ था। तथापि सत्यकमल जलपोत द्वारा विशाखापत्तनम् ले जाए जा रहे 22,000 मी० टन गेहूँ में से 3,800 मी० टन गेहूँ खुले समुद्र पर ही क्षतिग्रस्त हो गया था। इस मात्रा में से 2,796 मी० टन तो बिल्कुल ही खराब हो गई थी और उसे नगर पालिका के कूड़े के स्थान पर फेंक दिया गया था। बाहको के पास एक अस्थायी दावा दायर कर दिया गया है। पूर्णतया क्षतिग्रस्त अनाज को गोदामों से नगर पालिका के कूड़े के स्थान पर ले जाने पर 32,341 रुपये की परिवहन लागत आयी थी।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) to (d) No quantity of imported wheat became rotten at Visakhapatnam or Bombay port. However, of the 22,000 tonnes of wheat carried to Visakhapatnam by the vessel Satyakamal, 3,800 tonnes were found to have been damaged on the high seas. Of this quantity, 2,796 tonnes were totally damaged and dumped into the municipal pits. A provisional claim has been lodged with the Carriers. The cost of transportation of the totally damaged quantity from the godowns to the municipal pits was Rs. 32,341.]

†[] English translation.