

(c) Government is already making all efforts to optimise the production and to streamline the distribution of fertilisers.

Maximising of Production

Every effort is being made to optimise production in the existing units. Additional production is also sought to be achieved by expeditious implementation of the projects under erection, by expansion of capacity of existing units, wherever possible, and by setting up new projects.

Steps Taken to Improve Distribution of Fertilisers:

A number of steps have been taken to improve the distribution of fertilisers. These are:

(i) Coordinated supply plans are being drawn up in the Zonal Conference before each crop season together with the representatives of the State Governments and of domestic manufacturers concerned. Orders under the Essential Commodities Act are issued thereafter, making it legally obligatory for the domestic manufacturers to supply the quantities of fertilisers committed by them to each State at the Conferences. The inter-state movement of fertilisers except for certain specified categories is also banned so as to ensure compliance with the distribution schemes.

(ii) In order to avoid long haulage and cross movement of fertilisers, a rationalised programme of distribution of Pool and domestically manufactured fertilisers is being followed.

(iii) The fertiliser manufacturers have been requested to channelise as much of their output as possible through co-operative and other public organisations.

(iv) Through monthly reviews at a very high level a careful watch is being kept on the availability of wagons for rail movement in order to ensure that distribution of fertilisers is not affected by bottlenecks in rail transport.

Damage to Land and Crops Due to Flood

1507. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated damage caused to land and crops during the recent floods in each State (Statewise and item-wise); and

(b) the assistance sought by each State and the assistance given to them, and the criteria for such assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the States and will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as received.

Admissions in Diploma and Degree Courses in Technology

1508. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state the number of admissions made for the diploma and degree courses in technology in different States in years 1970, 1971 and 1972?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S NURUL HASAN): A statement is attached. [See Appendix LXXXVI, Annexure No. 2]

Aid to Gujarat for Drought Relief

1509 SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have refused to release the sanctioned amount for Gujarat for drought relief;

(b) if so, the amount so refused; and

(c) the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.