

SEMINAR ON MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION OF BOOKS

546. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Seminar on Marketing and Distribution of Books held in Calcutta in January, 1973 had suggested some postal concession on books so as to encourage the movement of books;

(b) if so, whether the recommendation has been examined by Government; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Seminar on Marketing and Distribution of Books organised by the National Book Trust at Calcutta in January, 1973 recommended that special concessional rates be introduced for the registration of V. P. P. book packets, especially of smaller values to encourage the widest distribution of books in India.

(b) and (c) Even before this recommendation was made, the matter had been receiving Government's attention. The suggestion is still under consideration by Government

MOVEMENT OF FERTILISERS

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

(a) whether there is any ban on the movement of fertilisers from one State to another ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Bihar Government have banned movement of Ammonium Sulphate and Ammonium Sulphate Nitrate from Sindri to Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) whether Sindri management requested increase or floating of prices of these types of fertilisers in context of widespread demand and black-marketing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) The Fertiliser (Movement Control) Order, 1973, banning movement of fertilisers from one State to another, except in certain specified cases, has been issued under Notification No. 10-19/72-MPRSTU dated the 25th April, 1973.

(b) No, Sir. The distribution of fertilisers produced by domestic manufacturers is regulated by the Government of India only and not by State Governments. Such regulation is done with a view to economise on the use of wagons by avoiding long and criss-cross railway movements. Andhra Pradesh State has, however, been getting Ammonium Sulphate from M/s. Hindustan Steel at Bhilai and Rourkela and M/s. F.A.C.T. at Alwaye.

(c) There is no statutory control on the retail price of Ammonium Sulphate Nitrate. In the case of Ammonium Sulphate, Fertiliser Corporation of India suggested increase in its statutory prices on account of the high cost of production of the fertilisers at their Sindri Unit. This Ministry is, however, not in favour of an increase in prices of fertilisers in view of its likely repercussions on agricultural production. However, the entire question of pricing of fertilisers is being reviewed by Government.

DISTRIBUTION OF FERTILISERS

548. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state what percentage of total private dealers have been supplied with fertilisers during year 1972-73, classified according to off-takes (i) upto 250 tonnes, (ii) between 250 and 500 tonnes, (iii) between 500 to 1000 tonnes, (iv) between 1000 and 2000 tonnes, (v) above 2000 tonnes, by various public sector and joint sector producers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

DEVNAGRI SCRIPT FOR SINDHI LANGUAGE

549. SHRI SWAI SINGH SISODIA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether the Government attention has been drawn to a resolution passed by the 3rd Sindhi Samelan recently urging Government to adopt Devnagri script for Sindhi language in the text-books; -----

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto.'

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have also received several representations asking that Sindhi should be written in the Perso-Arabic Script only as otherwise the personality of the Language will be lost.

(b) Having considered the matter in all aspects. Government have decided that the choice of the script should be left to the author or translator of the books but where demand exists books in both the scripts could be produced

INFERIOR MILO IMPORTER FROM U.S.

550. SHRI K. C. PANDA :
SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT :
SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI LOKA NATH MISRA: SHRI
K. P. SINGH DEO: SHRI
SUNDAR MANI PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state":

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to a statement made by the

U. S. State Department that the milo recently purchased by India from the United States was of an inferior grade and meant for cattle ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) and (b) Enquiries made reveal that no such statement has been made. A substantial quantity of U. S. No. 2 yellow grain sorghum has been imported in this country in the past for human consumption.

REPRESENTATION IN INDIAN POTASH LTD.

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

(a) whether his Ministry has representative on the Boards of Directors of a number of public and joint sector undertakings where the interest of the Ministry, farmers and cooperative movement are involved ;

(b) whether his Ministry had any interest and role in the establishment and working of the Indian Potash Ltd.; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not securing representation of his Ministry on Board of Directors of this undertaking ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) The Ministry has representative, on the Boards of Directors of Public Undertakings and Joint Sector Undertakings in which

the interest of agriculture development are involved.

(b) The Indian Potash Ltd., formerly known as Indian Potash Supply Agency, was largely owned by private companies. In order to make it fully responsive to the needs of the farmers and to promote the use of Potash, its share-capital structure was re-organised in 1970-71 and the maj-