

which was to be appointed by the Government of India, has not yet been appointed;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for holding back this proposal; and

(c) whether it is fact that the development of the Islands is suffering because of the absence of such a body?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is still under consideration of the Government.

(c) No Sir. Pending the constitution of the aforesaid Corporation, the work concerning the development of Islands is attended to by the concerned Departments of the Andaman Administration.

† UNUTILISED IMPORTED FERTILISERS

1132. SHRI INDER SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the imported fertiliser lying unutilised in the country;

(b) what is the region-wise break up of the accumulated fertiliser; and

(c) the reasons for the accumulation of the fertiliser?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a) to (c) The stocks of imported fertilisers with the Central Fertiliser Pool are constantly under watch. The latest information regarding the region-wise stocks of these fertilisers in the middle of August '70 is given below :

(Figures in M. T.)

Fertiliser (Nutrient)	Western Zone	Southern Zone	Eastern Zone	Nothern Zone	Total
Nitrogen (N)	108,631	24,385	23,379	137,477	293,872
Phosphates (P_2O_5)	9,231	9,187	7,141	34,441	60,000
Potash (K_2O)	5,924	4,646	959	6,492	18,022

The information regarding stocks of imported fertilisers with the State Governments is not available. It is proposed to hold meetings with the States in September October, '70 in order to assess the stocks with the States and the requirements for Rabi 1970-71 and stock building for Kharif, 1971.

It would not be correct to say that the fertiliser stocks are accumulating in the country unutilised. Fertiliser application is still proceeding for the Kharif crop and it would soon start for the

Rabi Crop. The total requirements of the States for use in Kharif 1970 and Rabi 1970 are 17.5 lakh tonnes of N, 5.6 lakh tonnes of P_2O_5 and 2.58 lakh tonnes of K_2O . The domestic production is not sufficient to meet the full requirements of the States. It takes 6 to 9 months to arrange for imported supplies and so an adequate quantity to meet current requirements smoothly has to be always held in the pipeline. In this view of the matter, it cannot be said that there is unnecessary accumulation of fertilisers.

†Transferred from the 19th August, 1970.