

"Committee of the Whole' The leader of the Indian delegation was elected unanimously as Chairman of the Committee. This Committee was responsible for developing the final plan of action to combat desertification. A measure of the seriousness of the purpose generated in this Committee would be evident from the fact that on several days night sessions extending up to midnight were held with full attendance. Also totally conflicting views some involving very delicate political issues such as the Cape Verde resolution on weapons causing ecological harm and the Bangladesh resolution on shared water resources were resolved in such a way that voting and confrontation were avoided and consensus reached.

Shri A N D Haksar High Commissioner for India in Nairobi who served as Deputy-leader of the Indian delegation served as Chairman of the Asian Regional Group in the Conference. In this capacity he played a significant role in promoting concerted action by Asian nations with regard to several important issues. Shri N Dubey Joint Secretary Ministry of External Affairs served as a member of the Working Group on follow up action and played a very important role in suggesting workable follow-up arrangements.

(b) Scientific ideas

The Indian delegation offered several important suggestions relating to the reclamation of saline and alkaline lands, dryland farming and land use planning in arid areas. The importance of involving the people in planning and execution was also emphasised. Another important contribution related to the establishment of Desert agro-industrial complexes to provide employment on a continuing basis.

(d) and (e) Integrated steps for the control of the desertification process are under development.

Imports of Foodgrains from U.S.S.R.

1035 SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN
SAIT

SHRI SHYAM SUNDAR
GUPTA

SHRI G M BANATWALLA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state

(a) whether any foodgrains were imported from USSR during the last five years and if so the quantity thereof

(b) whether Government have decided to refund the same to that country and if so when and

(c) the terms on which those food grains were imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRA-TAP SINGH) (a) and (c) Yes, Sir A quantity of 2005 lakh tonnes of wheat was made available on loan basis by the Govt of USSR. Replacement of the loan wheat was to commence two years after the completion of the final deliveries to India and was to be effected in the course of five years thereafter in equal annual instalments.

(b) Part of the wheat loan has been repaid in cash and the balance is being returned in kind. The shipment is expected to be completed by end of October 1978.

Provision of Sewerage in Localities of Delhi

1036 SHRI MANI RAM BAGRI
Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state

(a) the number and names of the unauthorised colonies which are proposed to be developed this year and next year,