

(b) Suitable provision has been made by the State Government in their budget for the year 1978-79 in respect of this project in consideration of priority to be given to schemes for drought affected area.

Progress of Drought prone area Project, in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Rajasthan

1628. SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress of the development programme, undertaken with the assistance of the International Development Association in drought prone areas of six districts in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan has been slow, and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same and the steps taken to step up the tempo of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of the position stated against (a)

Use of Algae as Fertilizer

1629. SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether field trials at many places, particularly in Tamilnadu, have shown that by using Algae, Chemical (Nitrogen) Fertilizer for the rice crop can be saved upto the extent of about 30 per cent;

(b) whether the production of Algae at farmer's level also has a rural income generating potential;

(c) steps Government propose to take to popularise the use of Algae and strengthen research in Algae; and

(d) whether the programme of production of Algae is not likely to be put to cold storage because of the fear that it may affect the sale of some big Fertilizer Companies?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) The Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi conducted a number of experiments at different Stations to study the effectiveness of blue-green Algae. Their data indicate that addition of Algae for Rice results in saving of about 25 Kg. Nitrogen/ha.

(b) The Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi has developed a rural oriented open air method for producing these algae for field application. Its potential as an income generating programme has not been fully assessed.

(c) The Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India has sponsored an All India Coordinated Project on Algae to strengthen the algal research in our country at national level.

(d) Biological inputs like algae are supplements to relieve the pressure on the chemical nitrogen input and not substitutes. The savings thus effected can be advantageously used for other crops. Hence, there should not be any ground to fear a conflict with fertilizer industries, in the framework of agricultural development.

सिचाई प्रचाली वर विधेयक

1630. श्री बुद्धभवन सिबारी: क्या कृषि और सिचाई मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सिचाई प्रणालियों के सुचारु रूप से कार्यकरण को सुनिश्चित करने हेतु एक नया आदेश सिचाई विधेयक पेश करने का विचार है; और