

under the Statute is, therefore, a penal offence, for which deterrent punishment has been provided. The Government has also taken steps to ensure that the maximum possible quantities of fertilisers, both indigenously produced as well as imported, is channelled through co-operatives and other public distribution agencies, to ensure the availability of fertilisers to farmers at the fixed price in respect of these three fertilisers, and also at reasonable rates in respect of other fertilisers.

#### Demand for Gypsum from Farmers

3031. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a growing demand for gypsum from farmers for use against soil alkalinity;

(b) if so, whether the Fertiliser Corporation of India has stepped in to supply gypsum; and

(c) the cost price of gypsum for the F.C.I. and its selling price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes.

(c) The estimated cost to the Fertiliser Corporation of India, of gypsum is as under:

(i) Gypsum powder of 60 mesh and packed in polythene lined second-hand gunny bags of 50 kgs capacity ex-Suratgarh Station. Rs. 88/- per tonne.

(ii) Gypsum powder of 60 mesh and packed in polythene lined new gunny bags of 50 kgs capacity ex-Suratgarh Station. Rs. 110/- per tonne.

The above cost does not include freight which works out to Rs. 35 per tonne on an average.

The present selling price of gypsum to Marketing Federation of Punjab and Haryana for 1st rail-head destination is as under;

(i) Gypsum powder of 60 mesh and packed in polythene lined second-hand gunny bags of 50 kgs capacity ex-Suratgarh Station. Rs. 115/- per tonne.

(ii) Gypsum powder of 60 mesh and packed in polythene lined new gunny bags of 50 kgs capacity ex-Suratgarh Station. Rs. 126 per tonne.

This includes also the railway freight.

#### Energising Tube-Wells in Contai, West Bengal

3032. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken for energising tube-wells, shallow tube wells and pumps for canal water lifting etc. for ensuring alternative crops in the flood affected areas of Contai Sub-division and other parts of Midnapur District of West Bengal;

(b) if so, facts thereabout; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to undertake such irrigation measures for raising alternative crops in the flood affected areas in Contai Sub-division and other parts of Midnapur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Steps have been taken for energising pumpsets on deep tubewells, shallow tubewells and river lift schemes in the flood affected areas