

(b) if so, the reasons for delay and the time by which it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An automatic Exchange of 600 lines MAX-II is under installation. The installation could not start earlier due to want of Mains Power Supply. The exchange is now expected to be commissioned by September 1990.

Consumption of Fertilizer in Tea Gardens

10385. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and type of fertiliser consumed in the tea gardens of North Bengal;

(b) whether the feed stock for making fertilizer at Barauni comes from Assam through pipe line passing through North Bengal;

(c) if so, details thereof;

(d) whether it is possible and viable to tap the feed stock in North Bengal and utilise it for making fertiliser required for the area; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard in the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) The present annual estimated consumption of various fertilizers in the tea gardens of North Bengal is as follows:-

Urea	-	18600 te.
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Ammonium Sulphate	-	5000 te.
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SSP	-	6000 te.
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Muriate of Potash	-	15000te.
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(b) and (c). No, Sir. The feed stock for making fertilizers at the Barauni plant is naphtha, which is produced in the Barauni Refinery and is not moved through the pipeline from Assam.

(d) and (e). The consumption of nitrogenous fertilizers in the North Bengal area is met by the production in the Namrup fertilizer plants and there is no proposal under consideration for setting up a new fertilizer plant in North Bengal.

[Translation]

Central Assistance to Madhya Pradesh for Drought Relief

10386. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh Government has submitted any proposal for seeking grants to handle the severe drought and drinking water problems in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of grants proposed to be sanctioned by Government to the State in 1990-91 to tackle severe drought and drinking water problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b). Government of Madhya Pradesh submitted a memorandum on drought situation and drinking water management on 16th April, 1990 seeking Central assistance

of Rs. 194.48 crores for drought relief measures for the period April-June, 1990 which included an amount of Rs. 53.68 crores for management of drinking water scarcity in the State.

(c) From 1st April, 1990, the scheme of financing the relief expenditure has undergone change. A Calamity Relief Fund has been created for each State with an allocated amount for carrying out the relief operation in the wake of natural calamities. 75% of this amount is to be contributed by the quarterly instalments and the balance 25% shall be contributed by the State Government from its own resources. The State Level Committee headed by the Chief Secretary of the State shall decide on all matters connected with the relief expenditure. The State of Madhya Pradesh has been allocated an amount of Rs. 37.00 crores under this Calamity Relief Fund for the year 1990-91. 75% of this amount is to be contributed by the Central Government in 4 quarterly instalments. An amount of Rs. 6.94 crores has since been released to the State of Madhya Pradesh on 14th May, 1990 as 'On Account' payment to the Government of Madhya Pradesh being the Centre's contribution for the first quarter for the Calamity Relief Fund.

Setting up of Branch of National Horticulture Board in Madhya Pradesh

10387. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a branch of National Horticulture Board in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to provide any special grant to Madhya Pradesh for the

development of Horticulture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) to (c). National Horticulture Board has no proposal, at present, to set up any branch office in any part of the country including the State of Madhya Pradesh. However, under the scheme of Market Information Service of Fruits and Vegetables, the Board has set up one Market Information Centre in Madhya Pradesh at Bhopal.

The Board has also sanctioned a project for Expansion of Area under Pineapple Cultivation, high density planting, in Bastar District of Madhya Pradesh at a total cost of Rs. 108.50 lakhs for a period of five years, commencing from 1989-90. The Board's share in the project is Rs. 62.22 lakhs. An amount of Rs. 6.37 lakhs was released to the State Government during the year 1989-90. Besides, the Government is also implementing schemes of "Package Programme for Development of Cashewnut" and "Production of Fruits and Vegetables" in the State of Madhya Pradesh. In addition, Coconut Development Board is also implementing a scheme for Expansion of Area in Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

Procurement and Marketing of Milk

10388. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the key-targets of the operation flood II programme regarding procurement and marketing of milk and creating viable farmers' organisations during 1986-87 to 1988-89;

(b) the achievements made during the above period; and