

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : The Loomba Committee is a departmental Committee appointed by the Government. Ordinarily the reports of Departmental Committees are not placed on the Table of the House.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Ordinarily the roof does not fall down.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : But, in view of the fact that this incident is an important event and because the persons constituting the Committee are not connected with the Department at all and are all outsiders, if hon Members want, I have no objection to lay it on the Table of the House. I did not want to do it because I was not sure whether everybody was anxious to have it. Ordinarily, as the House knows, we do not place on the Table of the House, the reports of such departmental committees.

If hon. Members want that I should place the report on the Table of the House, I have no objection to doing so.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY rose—

MR. SPEAKER : This notice has come to me just now. He should have sent it to me earlier. If it had been sent to me earlier, I could have thought about it. He should not suddenly get up in this manner and then take the time of the House.

Now, the hon. Minister had agreed to place the report on the Table of the House.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : It has been decided that he will place it on the Table of the House.

12.45 hrs.

**STATEMENTS RE. SUBMISSION OF
REPORTS BY NATIONAL
COMMISSION ON
AGRICULTURE**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROP.
SHEER SINGH) :** On behalf of Shri

F. A. Ahmed, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding the submission of three interim reports by the National Commission on Agriculture.

STATEMENT

Hon'ble Members might recall that when the National Commission on Agriculture was set up in August, 1970, the resolution included a direction to make its interim recommendations on some urgent issues of agricultural policy and programmes. The National Commission has, as a first step submitted three Interim Reports today dealing with (i) Multiplication and distribution of Quality Seed pertaining to High Yielding Varieties and Hybrids of Cereals, (ii) Fertiliser Distribution, and (iii) Some aspects of Agricultural Research, Extension and Training.

In its Report on seeds of high yielding varieties and hybrids of cereals, the Commission has dealt with certain aspects relating to multiplication and distribution of quality seeds of cereals with a view to ensuring regular supply of quality seed in adequate quantities. The Commission has spelt out the responsibilities of various agencies in multiplication and distribution in different stages—breeder's, foundation and certified seed with regard to breeder's seed, it has laid down that responsibility should be on the research institution and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. For foundation seed, it has advocated that the National Seeds Corporation should be responsible for varieties of All-India importance, and State Governments should designate agency or agencies with regard to varieties of State importance. With regard to certified seed, the Commission has advocated a multiplicity of agencies both for production as well as for marketing and has suggested their development by providing necessary incentives and facilities. The responsibility for assessment of the requirements of seed at various stages has been assigned to the production and marketing agencies subject to supervision, guidance and coordination by the State and Central Governments. The Commission has recommended that close watch should be kept on the performance of high yielding varieties in the field by the extension agencies

The Interim Report on Fertiliser Distribution deals with several aspects of fertiliser promotion and distribution in the context of shortfalls in consumption during the last two or three years. The Commission has recommended various measures for accelerating consumption of fertilisers which is an essential input in scientific agriculture.

The Commission has suggested setting up a special team for making a realistic estimate of the requirements of fertilisers for achieving the agricultural production targets set under the Fourth Plan. Such assessment should form the basis for organising Production; imports and distribution of fertilisers. It has recommended gearing up of internal production not only for meeting the increased requirements but also for achieving balanced application of nutrients.

To ensure timely supply, recommendations have been made for streamlining distribution arrangements which include maintenance of intermediate storages near consumption centres by the Central Pool State Governments and fertiliser producers; easier movement by rail; construction of special road-head storages in areas not connected by rail; and supply to the interior and backward areas as well as difficult hill areas. A much larger promotional effort and soil analysis programme by the Government and fertiliser producers have been recommended for popularising fertiliser use. Revised distribution margins have been suggested to promote sales while special measures are proposed by way of incentives to the cooperative sector to play its assigned role in the distribution system. In recommending the revised margins the Commission has taken care to ensure that the overall fertiliser price is not increased. It has also suggested measures for ensuring easier and timely flow of credit, particularly to small and marginal farmers as well as retailers. Measures for ensuring quality of fertilisers have also been emphasised.

In its Interim Report on some aspects of Agricultural Research Extension and Training, the Commission has delineated the role of agricultural universities and State Departments in regard to research extension and training. It has recommended strengthening of fundamental and applied

research and has made suggestions for funding of such research. It has also suggested the creation of 50 Professorial Chairs for fundamental research in agricultural and sciences basic to agriculture. Some of these will be Chairs of Excellence to attract outstanding scientists.

In the Commission's view the agricultural university should be responsible for fundamental and applied research while the responsibility for adaptive research should be that of the State Governments. Similarly, responsibility for extension should be with the State Government while the University's role should be limited to extension education. The reorganisation of the universities by forming divisions having teaching, research and extension components in each one of them has also been recommended. The Commission has also recommended streamlining and strengthening of the departments by providing specialists at district and tehsil levels.

In the sphere of training of formers as well as senior and junior staff members of the departments, the respective roles of State departments and agricultural universities have also been specified. Setting up of training centres at the rate of one in each district to provide long and short duration training facilities in various subjects to farmers and their sons has also been recommended.

Finally, the Commission has suggested constitution of an Apex Body in each State under the chairmanship of Minister for Agriculture with the Vice Chancellor of the University, the heads of concerned Departments and Agricultural Production Commissioner as members to exercise overall supervision and to ensure harmonious working of the Universities and Departments.

Copies of the reports have been placed in the Library of the House. The reports having been received only today, I have directed that they be examined quickly before Government takes further action in the matter.