

crores and of the Agriculture Refinance and Development Corporation will be Rs. 14.03 crores. The World Bank will provide loan assistance of Rs. 17.2 crores which is reflected in the ARDC/State Government's share of the cost of the Project.

श्री मोहम्मद असरार अहमद : मान्यवर मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि इस के ऊपर कुछ दिनों से काम शुरू हो गया है और साथ ही साथ यह भी कहा है कि कुछ जगहों का निर्णय नहीं हुआ है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि किस-किस जगह पर यह काम शुरू हुआ है ?

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: It has been decided to have hatcheries in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, U.P. and West Bengal. The location of the hatcheries is being left to the States. States are now finalising it; when they report to us it will be taken into consideration.

श्री मोहम्मद असरार अहमद : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि अब तक किस जगह पर खर्चा हुआ है ? कहां खर्चा हुआ है और कैसे हुआ है ?

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: So far as I know, no expenditure has been made; it is only in the beginning stage. It will be located very soon. The area where it is to be located, that is left to the States. States are finalising it and will send a report very soon; it will be finalised very soon.

श्री मोहम्मद असरार अहमद : मान्यवर, पहली अप्रैल से यह चालू हुआ है

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप तीसरा सवाल नहीं कर सकते हैं।

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: The answer mentions that the project has commenced from 1st April 1980.

Nine months have passed but the Minister says that the locations have not yet been fixed. (a) Then, what exactly is the meaning of saying that the project had already commenced from 1st April 1980? (b) I want to know whether any criteria have been laid down by the government for fixing the locations of the project and (c) why has the government excluded Maharashtra and whether the Government will consider establishing the project at Ratnagiri in Maharashtra which has been exporting fish worth crores of rupees, will they seriously consider this?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): These projects have in fact been prepared by the States and money has to come from outside, from World Bank. So far as the Government of India is concerned, we have decided that we shall meet our share to the extent of Rs. 7.91 crores. Something will be contributed by the States themselves. The rest has to come from outside. Five States have entered into an agreement for this purpose, and if Maharashtra State did not come forward for this purpose we can't help it. The five States that have taken up this project are Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Actually, it is these five States which have taken a lot of interest in the development of inland fisheries and their production at present is also substantial and we want to further increase the production in these States. That is why we have accepted the proposals from these States.

Price index of Potato and its production

*401. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the wholesale price index of potatoes against the average of 1979-80 = 100.07 (base 1970-71); and

(b) the production of potatoes during the last three years, (year-wise)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The average wholesale price index of potatoes for the period April to November, 1980 was 209.1, as against 100.7 during 1979-80 (April—March).

(b) The all-India production of potato was estimated at 71.71 lakh tonnes in 1976-77, 81.35 lakh tonnes in 1977-78 and 101.25 lakh tonnes in 1978-79. Firm Estimates for 1979-80 are not yet available. However, preliminary estimates are between 85 and 90 lakh tonnes.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: In reply to part (b) the Minister has said that 'Firm Estimates for 1979-80 are not yet available'. The financial year ends on the 31st March and eight months have already passed, still the Government have not yet been able to supply the actual production figures of potatoes during the year 1979-80. It shows the callousness of the Agriculture Minister regarding questions. Sir, is it not a fact that potato production was lower by 25 per cent because the growers did not get remunerative prices? What steps are Government going to take to ensure remunerative prices to the consumers at the beginning of the season?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): Sir, as has been stated by my colleague, the estimates have been given. But it takes time to collect the actual figures from the States and the States in turn have to collect the figures down from the farm level to block level and district agricultural offices. It is not possible to collect all the figures within a period of two months. This is the system and we tried to collect the farm figures as soon as possible. But

this is not the only thing; we tried to compile farm data for everything, for every agricultural produce, for that matter, including milk and poultry and even eggs, the number of eggs produced. But all these things do take time. I quite agree with the hon. Member that perhaps this time could be reduced. We shall look into it. The preliminary estimates already stated, are between 85 and 90 lakh tonnes and we hope it will still increase somewhat, and it might go up to even 100 lakh tonnes. But we have been steeply increasing our potato output. The prices ruling in the markets at present are quite satisfactory. There should be no need for worry on that account. As soon as the prices slump, the Government shall take measures to stabilise it.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: The Minister has not replied to the last portion of my question. I want to point out that before putting my second question. There is a wide gap between wholesale and retail prices. There is significant difference between prices prevailing in the producing area and the consuming area, even after allowing a margin for transportation. The prices of potatoes become very high after keeping it in cold storage. Traders and owners of cold storages create generally artificial scarcities. May I know whether the Government has any proposal for proper procurement and distribution system, so that growers can get remunerative price and consumers can get potatoes at a fair price? To check the price rise of potato, may I know whether the Government has any proposal to nationalise the cold storages?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: Government are aware of the fact that in the matter of prices of agricultural produce, it is found that generally the prices are at a low level in the harvesting season and later on they rise quite high and particularly in the matter of vegetables and perishable items, the profit is pocketed by the

middlemen, the traders. We are trying to strengthen our marketing organisations through cooperatives. We are also encouraging consumer movements in this field. We are doing all that we can. I quite agree with the hon. member that Government should take further steps to see that the consumers get the produce all through the year at a reasonable price.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: I seek your protection. He simply said that Government should take further steps. I want a concrete answer. Regarding nationalisation of cold storages, he has not answered.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: He asked about nationalisation of cold storages. That is not part of the question. At present that is not the policy of the Government to nationalise cold storages. We are short of cold storages as the hon. member knows and we want to encourage further cold storage capacity.

SHRI R. G. TIWARI: Out of the total production, what is the quantity that has been lost on account of damages, as potato is a perishable article?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: I am not in a position to give figures about the quantity that had rotted and the quantity that could be salvaged. It has to be a separate question, but it will be very difficult to answer that.

MR. SPEAKER: That is not possible. Next question.

SHRI R. K. MHALGI: He said something about consumer movement. I want to put a question.

MR. SPEAKER: You can put a separate question. There is nothing in this.

MR. SPEAKER: Question 403 Shri A. K. Roy.

SHRI A. K. ROY: Question No. 403.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): The major Research Projects continuing in the School...

SHRI A. K. ROY: Sir, I seek your protection. This is the most harmless and innocent question. And about that I read in the Notice Office that the information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House. Now just a minute before I was going to speak, a detailed list was supplied to me. I do not think that other Members have the opportunity of seeing the answer. In this way, it curtails the scope of supplementaries. How can all of a sudden, Members ask supplementaries?

SHRI R. K. MHALGI: The question should be held over.

SHRI A. K. ROY: This is a very important subject concerning environmental geology. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The answer has been revised.

SHRI A. K. ROY: But I got it just a minute back.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): If the hon. Members put questions, they are supposed to know what supplementaries would arise out of that. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: You just study it. I will take it afterwards. Or if you want, he can read it.

SHRI A. K. ROY: Let him read.

Indian School of Mines

*403. **SHRI A. K. ROY:** Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the major research schemes and developmental projects continuing in the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad