

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, April 6, 1989/Chaitra 16, 1911
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Disease in mango blooms

*512. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the disease in mango blooms is responsible for an estimated sixty percent loss of mango crop;

(b) if so, whether any remedy to this disease has been found;

(c) whether the mango growers of Konkan, Goa and Valsad district of Gujarat have urged Government for aerial spraying of mango growing areas; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Loss to mango crop due to

disease in mango blooms occurs in a number of States including Gujarat, Maharashtra and U.P. The extent of the loss, however, varies depending on the severity of the pest/disease attack.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of reply to part (c), the question does not arise.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have admitted that the Pest/disease in mango blooms causes heavy loss to mango crop. As you know, the quality of mango produced in Maharashtra and Konkan is much better than that of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. But the disease in bloom causes 40 to 80 percent loss of the crop and the farmer finds himself totally lost. The Government do not provide any protection to him. The Government should introduce an insurance scheme for this purpose also on the lines of those already introduced for other crops. I do not know whether the Government proposes to take or not any action in this regard. The total production of mango in Pakistan has gone to the extent of 80 million tonnes and they are exporting to the extent of more than 15 thousand tonnes. Our target for this year is 10 thousand tonnes. Japan has refused to accept the mango because of its being affected by the disease. It is the best means of providing employment in the rural areas. Some improvements have been made in the biological control process but the disease has not been brought under control even after taking recourse to the use of pesticides. The Government provides 50 percent subsidy to the State Governments for aerial spray on sugarcane and other crops. May I know whether the Government propose to

provide similar amount of subsidy for this crop as is being provided to the State Governments for aerial spraying on sugarcane and some other crops. As you know it is quite difficult to spray the upper part of the mango trees. So pesticides are sprayed on the parts which are approachable. But due to the lack of pesticide spraying, we have to suffer a heavy loss of mango crop. Processing Centres are inadequate in number to meet the present requirements of work to be undertaken by them. May I know whether the Government proposes to open more processing centres.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Sir, the hon. Member has made a reference to several things, first of them all is the production of mango crop. Mango crop is produced particularly in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal. We are exporting the total quantity of mango crop produced in these states. The total production of mango crop during 1987-88 had been about 14900 tonnes, say about 15 thousand metric tonnes. Secondly, the hon. Member has referred to the restrictions imposed by Japan. I may tell you that this is not true. Japan objected to the process adopted here for reopening the mangoes. They did not want to import this type of ripped mangoes. They have proposed that we should adopt the incubatory technique which has been agreed to. The Indian Government has been keeping a direct contact with the Japanese Government and the technique would be adopted as soon as that machine is available with us. The talks are on advanced stage. He has made a reference to the need of aerial spraying on the mango crop. As I have submitted, no State Government has made such a demand. Besides, aerial spray on mango blooms is not very useful and the hon. Member very well knows about these problems. I would not like to waste the precious time of the House by repeating those things. The diseases in the mango crop can be identified and the details regarding the medicines and now the disease can be controlled are not

available. The information to the farmers in this regard is supplied through the media. Two types of diseases are prevalent in the crop and their cure has been found out. The medicines to check these diseases are available with us in sufficient quantity and the farmers are taking advantage of these medicines.

The hon. Member has sought information about the biological control process. I would like to inform in this connection that the Horticulture Institute of ICAR in Lukhnow has been conducting research and experiments are also being made to kill the mango millbug by using lady bird bridal. Similar experiments have been made on other fruits like lemon, orange etc. in Karnataka. But the Horticulture Institute in Lukhnow has been conducting the same experiment, on mango crop only for the first time and the medicines to the farmers will be made available as soon as the experiment succeed.

The hon. Member has also sought the information about the various research centres. I would like to inform him that three research Centres are working at Central level. They are Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Central Research Institute of Delhi, Indian Institute of Horticulture, Bangalore and of Horticulture, Lucknow. Besides, seven regional research stations are also working at State level in 7 states. In this way there are various centres engaged in this work throughout the country and there is no need to set up more research centres.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHÉ PATIL: I would like to know whether the Centre Government is prepared to sanction subsidy for aerial spray to the State Governments. May I also know whether the Government have formulated any scheme for increasing the production of mango crop and whether the Government propose to provide marketing facilities to enable the farmers to sell their produce at a fair price and a facility to enable them to establish Cooperative Processing Units. I would also like to know the reaction of the Government regarding adoption of the new technology, the genetic science and

tissue culture. If this technology is to be adpten then, what are results likely to be achieved and if not, whether the Government would prepare a time bound programme to enable the farmers to get the disease free plants at the earliest.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: So far as the matter regarding setting up processing units by the cooperative institutions is concerned, any cooperative institution can do this work. The Government would do consider the matter in case a project for the propose is sent to NCDC which provides financial assistance in such cases. As regards tissue culture, we have not made considerable progress in this field so far but there are certain five qualities of mangoes, Amrapali in one of them. Which are rather less prone to the diseases. But this quality has been developed just 12 years back and no more new variety is there. But as I have already stated, we have made adequate arrangements and pesticides are available with us in sufficient quality to prevent the disease.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Speaker, Let me first. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Professor Sahib, do you also agree that the aerial spray on mango crop is not possible?

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, I represent the Constituency which produces the best Alfanso mangoes in the whole country. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: That is why, I am asking whether the provision for subsidy should not be introduced or not.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, the hon. Minister, in the written reply to part (c) of the question, "whether the mango growers of Konkan, Goa and Valsad district of Gujarat have urged Government for aerial spraying of mango growing areas", he said "No". I think, the hon. Minister has not collected enough information. Is it not a fact that particularly from the Konkan region of Maharashtra which produces the best Alfonso mangoes in the country, exports them and gets you... (*Interruptions*) You are invited to my place. I will given the best mangoes. It will not be as bitter as the Zero Hour.

I want to know this from the hon. Minister. Is it not a fact that from the Konkan region, there are certain innovative mango growers, who have been awarded special awards by the Central Government for their experimentation in the field of mango-growing and for producing mangoes far in advance of the traditional normal season of mangoes, but their complaint has been that in spite of producing the best production, because of certain diseases, the production suffers, and they have suggested certain ways out. Shall I request the hon. Minister to find out from certain experts in the Konkan region as to what concrete measures can be taken to prevent the disease and also augment the production and to given them the necessary assistance and also encouragement so that our foreign exchange reserves also can be increased?

SHRISHYAMLAL YADAV: I agree with the suggestion made by the hon. Member and we shall take it into consideration. We shall find out what best can be done for the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: So many things can be done.

SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO: Sir, now-a-days the mango growers face many problems. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any crop insurance for mango crop.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: There is no crop insurance for mango crop. It is for the State Governments to come up with such a proposal. If they send such a proposal, then we can certainly consider it.

MR. SPEAKER: This is something, you see, out of the blue-insurance. But make it assured against pests and I think we will be much assured. That is the only thing.

[Translation]

Do something about subsidy, you have withdrawn it. This has not been a good thing.

[English]

Aerial spray is the best thing. It will induce people and it will save lots of foodgrains, fruits, everything and it must be assured. Last year I wrote to you that in Punjab it had been discontinued. I think it should be done.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Subsidy is there in the aerial spray. The only question is that for mango, it is not profitable, i.e. after a great study, it has been found out that it is not profitable...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Profitable for whom?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: For the farmers or for anybody because some trees are very long and some are very small and the spray does not go down...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. We know it. We get the orchards sprayed. I know it. There is no problem on that and we can sort it out.

Development of Kakinada Port

*513. **SHRI C. SAMBU:** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop Kakinada Port to meet the growing demand for loading and unloading of cargo there; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted to the Government of India a Detailed Project Report for the further development of Kakinada Port.

(b) The report is being examined.

SHRI C. SAMBU: Now the major ports in our country are highly congested. It is taking weeks to unload the cargo in these ports. The major ports on the eastern coasts like Madras and Calcutta are very congested. There is an inordinate delay in loading and unloading the cargo from the ships which are calling particularly at Madras port causing great inconvenience to traders, exporters and importers. Hence I would ask the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal from the Government to convert the Kakinada Port into a major port.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I have been off and on replying questions on Kakinada Port that it is one of the very important minor ports. Earlier there was a scheme where Central Government used to help in development of minor ports. But during the time of Madhu Dandavateji when Janata Party was in Government, they took a decision that we should not help the minor ports from the Central Government. That is why, after the 5th plan no help was given. But in the Seventh Plan Government took a decision after the working group submitted a report that Rs. 100 crores may be diverted for the development of minor ports. Government could not afford Rs. 100 crores, but we decided that Rs. 20 crores be given for development of minor ports. Out of Rs. 20 crores, Rs. 10 crores were earmarked for Kakinada Port. We selected two ports—Radi in Maharashtra and Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh. But now the State Government has projected the development of the port to the Asian Development Bank which is giving round about Rs. 120 to Rs. 130 crores. That report