

and less and are covered by the Employees' Provident Fund and the Coal-mines' Provident Fund. It does not apply to other workers.

Shri R. S. Pandey: May I know what will be the process to operate this scheme and what arrangements have been made to help those who want to avail of the benefit under this scheme?

Shri A. K. Sen: The scheme has not been finalised yet.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: May I know whether the Government has fixed up the particular set-up of the people who will be covered by this scheme?

Shri Jaganatha Rao: As I said, persons who are covered by the Employees' Provident Fund and Coal-mines' Provident Fund and drawing less than Rs. 500 will be covered provided they make certain contributions. The employers will also make certain contributions.

Some hon. Members: *rose—*

Mr. Speaker: Shrimati Savitri Nigam—She should not continue to keep on standing. After she has risen she should sit down. She continued to stand while five supplementaries have been put. It is not that I did not see her or notice her. She cannot escape my attention (*Interruption*).

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether the handicapped people, crippled as well as physically handicapped people, will also be included in this scheme? May I also know what are the details of the benefits that will be given to the people under this scheme?

Shri Jaganatha Rao: Handicapped people do not come under this scheme.

Shri P. H. Bheel: May I know whether pensioners are also included under this unemployment insurance scheme?

Shri Jaganatha Rao: No, Sir.

Food Production

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Shri Eswara Reddy:
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
Shri Prabhat Kar:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri J. B. Singh:
Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:
Shri Hukam Chand
Kachhavalaya:
Shri Bade:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri K. N. Tiwary:
Shri Mohan Swarup:
 *92. **Shri Inder J. Malhotra:**
Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha:
Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:
Shri Kapur Singh:
Shri Narasimha Reddy:
Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri Gulshan:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri P. G. Sen:
Shri Ram Sewak:
Shri Krishnapal Singh:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri Daljit Singh:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any plan in consultation with the State Governments for a country-wide drive for increasing food production; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

The broad programme for increasing food production as part of the overall programme for agricultural development is already being implemented under the Third Five Year Plan. Over the last two years, special efforts have been made for accelerating the pace of progress through provision of larger outlays and through programmes of intensive

cultivation in specially selected areas. In the implementation of the various development programmes, special emphasis has been placed on the programmes for minor irrigation, soil conservation, fertilizer distribution, improved seeds and plant protection. In addition in the light of decisions taken at the Chief Minister's Conference in June 1964, Special Development Programmes are being taken up since the last few months for securing quick increase in the production of subsidiary foods such as fruits, vegetables, milk, meat, eggs and fish.

Shri Esvara Reddy: In the statement laid on the Table it is said that special emphasis has been placed on the programmes for minor irrigation, soil conservation and fertilizer distribution in the last two years. May I know the additional amount of money spent on minor irrigation and fertilizer distribution in this year compared to the previous years?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Over and above the Plan allocations, an additional sum of Rs. 15 crores was sanctioned. Later on, another sum of Rs. 5.84 crores was sanctioned for minor irrigation.

Shri Esvara Reddy: Sir, my question was about fertilizer distribution.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Fertilizer is being distributed all over the country.

Shri Daji: Sir, on a point of order. The hon. Member asked a specific question about distribution of fertilizer during last year to which there has been no answer.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): As far as fertilizer is concerned, last year we distributed 400,000 tons of nitrogenous fertilizer. This year we are trying to distribute 600,000 tons of nitrogenous fertilizer. With regard to minor irrigation programmes, we have increased the ceiling. The figures will be available when the budget is presented. I will not be able to disclose the budget figures just now.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: What has been the increase in production in the intensive cultivated areas in the various parts of the country as compared to last year?

Shri C. Subramaniam: It varies from State to State. While some States have done well in the intensive agricultural development districts, I am sorry to say that other States have not had as much progress as they should have. In States like Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Madras, where they have achieved success, the increase in 1963-64 has been round about 9 to 20 per cent over the previous year.

श्री हुकम चन्द कश्यवाय: रेलवे लाइन के पास काफी जमीन पड़ी है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार उस पर खेती करने का विचार कर रही है। और क्या इस जमीन के अतिरिक्त भी जमीन है जिस पर खेती नहीं होती है और उस पर सरकार खेती करने का विचार कर रही है, ताकि उत्पादन बढ़ सके ?

श्री शाहनवाज खाँ : रेलवे लाइन के इर्द गिर्द जो जमीन है वहाँ सरकार तो खेती करने का कोई इरादा नहीं करती है, लेकिन उस जमीन को किसानों को देने के लिए इन्तिजामात किए जा रहे हैं।

Shri Prabhat Kar: What is the percentage of utilisation of fertilizers and water in the case of minor irrigation schemes?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Fertilizer we are using fully. The figures that we have given of 400,000 tons this year and 600,000 tons for next year will be fully utilized. As far as minor irrigation is concerned, we try to utilize the entire water. In many States, it is immediately used. In certain areas there is a time lag, particularly with regard to tube-wells, where energising and digging of canals have to take place. The Ministry of Irrigation and Power are taking all steps to see that full utilisation is taking place as soon as possible.

Shri Bade: The statement says:

"Special development programmes are being taken up since the last few months for securing quick increase in the production of subsidiary foods such as fruits, vegetables, milk, meat, eggs and fish."

Have any complaints been received from the States that because of paucity of money they are unable to implement these schemes? Have you given any money to the States, to Madhya Pradesh for instance, to implement this scheme?

Shri C. Subramaniam: During the last few months we have sanctioned schemes to the extent of Rs. 15 crores. It is outside the Plan and the entire expenditure is borne by the Central Government. In spite of this, I am sorry to say that many State Governments have not sanctioned the schemes in their own States, even when we have made the allocation. In some other States the implementation is rather slow. I am taking up the matter with the various State Governments.

Shri Bade: My question was whether you have given some money to the State Governments, for example, Madhya Pradesh.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes, we have given money to States.

Shri Bade: I have asked a specific question about Madhya Pradesh.

Mr. Speaker: He cannot give it just at present.

Shri Bade: He has not said like that.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I have said so.

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि हम ने विदेशों से अब तक कितना खाद मंगाया है और किसान हमारे देश का कितना खाद काम में लाते हैं ?

क्या हमारे देश का खाद महंगा है, यदि हाँ, तो उस को सस्ता करने के बारे में सरकार क्या विचार कर रही है, ताकि किसान ज्यादा से ज्यादा खाद काम में लावें ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The import is likely to be roundabout 250,000 tonnes of nitrogen. The imported cost is less than the indigenous cost.

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा : हमारा जो खाद है वह विदेशों के खाद से बहुत महंगा है। क्या सरकार उस को सस्ता करने के बारे में विचार कर रही है ताकि किसान उस को ज्यादा से ज्यादा काम में लावें ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes, Sir; as far as urea is concerned, we have cut down the price by about Rs. 100 per tonne.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: In view of the fact that large sums, thousands of crores of rupees, are being pumped into agricultural sector and still we are not able to achieve the target of 100 million tonnes by the end of the Third Five Year Plan, may I know whether it is one of the reasons that the administrative machinery at the State level is so defective that it is not possible to implement the schemes that are being enunciated at this level? If that is the case, what steps do Government propose to take in consultation with the Chief Ministers to orient the agricultural machinery at the State level so as to implement the schemes successfully and attain the target that has been envisaged?

Shri C. Subramaniam: To a certain extent it is true. We are discussing with the State Governments as to how best to reorganise the agricultural administrative machinery to suit the developing economy.

श्री गुलशन : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि हमारे देश में जो जल विहीन जमीन पड़ी हुई है उस को ट्यूब-वैल्स में पानी

देने की पहल के बारे में कुछ सोचा गया है ? यदि हाँ, तो खाद और खेती बाड़ी के औजार सस्ते देने का भी क्या कोई विचार है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: We have given the highest priority to minor irrigation projects. Provided a proper survey has been made and it is found to be economically and technically feasible, there is no ceiling with regard to the expenditure to be incurred on minor irrigation programmes. Therefore, we are taking up as many minor irrigation programmes as possible on the basis of the proper survey and investigation made. As far as implements are concerned, we are trying to manufacture more and more of them and with higher scales of production to bring down the cost.

Shri Krishnapal Singh: I would like to know from the hon. Minister if Government have any scheme for the construction of ordinary masonry wells which are bored. Instead of giving taccavi and loans to peasants which are never sufficient. Government should construct the wells and recover the cost from the cultivator by instalments.

Shri C. Subramaniam: There is a taccavi loan programme to be given by the State Governments to the various farmers for constructing wells, but I do not know whether it would become cheaper if the Government takes up the programme of digging the wells and recovering the cost from farmers.

Shri Ranga: Are we to understand that the price that the peasants are obliged to pay at the village level for fertilisers is higher than the import price even after Government have reduced the price per tonne by Rs. 100?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes, Sir; the price is slightly higher. We have got what we call a pool price; pooling the imported fertiliser and the indigenously manufactured fertiliser a cer-

tain price is fixed. At this price, no doubt, we are in a sellers' market now because there is so much of demand; but with the increased production and availability, I have no doubt in my mind that at this price we will not be able to sell all the fertiliser. That is why this will have to be investigated properly. We have appointed a high-level committee to go into the whole matter of production, price and distribution and we hope to get the report within a few months.

Mr. Speaker: I do realise that so many hon. Members have risen in their seats, but they should appreciate my difficulty also. To those who have sponsored the question, I have to give precedence.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether it is a fact that the fragmentation of land is one of the main reasons for our lower production; if so, whether Government have got any proposal to put off the land reforms policy for some time until we become self-sufficient in our agricultural production?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The question with regard to land ceilings is a very vexed question; but fragmentation is a different problem. We are taking up the consolidation of fragmented holdings in the various States now.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know how much percentage of the demand was met from fertilisers when 400,000 tons of nitrogen was imported and how much of the demand would be met this year when 600,000 tons will be imported?

Shri C. Subramaniam: My estimate is that last year we met about 75 to 80 per cent of the demand. But this year, in spite of its increased availability at 600,000 tons my estimate is that we will be able to meet only two-thirds of the demand.

Shri P. R. Patel: Despite our spending large amounts of money on agri-

culture and despite our importing more and more fertiliser and all these things, we have not reached our target. May I know if it is because we have not sought the cooperation of the farmers' organisation for the increase in the output of agricultural produce?

Shri C. Subramaniam: It is not one factor which has contributed to the stagnation. Weather has played its own part. But this year all the potentials created already are yielding results. That is why we may reach a target of about 87 million tons of food-grains. We are hoping that next year—we have built up the potential and all resources also have been allocated—to reach a target of about 95 million tons. Let us see how the production programme goes during the next year.

Shri Thirumala Rao: May I know if the hon. Minister or the Ministry is aware that the Minor Irrigation Team is functioning under the Committee on Plan Projects and that it has submitted a number of reports on Punjab, U.P., Maharashtra, Gujarat and West Bengal pointing out the highlights as well as the defects in the implementation of the minor irrigation schemes? May I know whether he is aware of that and the action that has been taken on these reports?

Shri C. Subramaniam: We are trying to take the corrective action on the basis of these reports.

Colourisation of Vanaspati

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- *93. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
Shri Jagdev Singh
Siddhanti:
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the re-

ply given to Stared Question No. 610 on the 22nd December, 1964 and state:

(a) whether the experts committee appointed to find a colour for vanaspati has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, whether the same has been considered; and

(c) if so, with what results?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri D. C. Sharma: For the last 13 years, the answer to this Question which is a hardy quarterly, has been 'No.' May I know if our Government of India is so deficient in scientific talent that they cannot find a solution for this problem and what effort have you been making in regard to scientific knowledge in this country so that we could arrive at some results?

Mr. Speaker: Whether this would be the information available with the Government that it is so inefficient or whatever it is that is what he wants to know.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I know you are deficient. I like the word 'inefficiency' because that is everywhere to be seen.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): I agree, if by Government he means Ministers, we are very much deficient with regard to scientific knowledge. But we have appointed other scientists to undertake this task and even they find themselves in difficulty in finding out a solution.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Is it a compliment to the Government to laugh at this that they could not find out a solution?

Shri D. C. Sharma: It is not a fact that the Government of India is too much under the influence of vanaspati manufacturers and that in order to safeguard their interests, the Government is doing everything in its