

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, May 3, 1966/Vaisakha 13,
1888 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Utilisation of Urban Waste, Sewage and Sullage

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- *1453. Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Hukam Chand
Kachhavalya:
Shri Bade:
Shri D. D. Puri:

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to utilise the urban waste, sewage and sullage which are discharged into rivers and streams and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the percentage of it which is utilised at present for agricultural production purpose; and

(c) whether its fertility value has brought any significant change in production in areas where it is utilised?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) to (c). A

statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes. Utilisation of urban wastes (garbage, night soil, sewage/sullage) constitutes an important activity under the agricultural production programme of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Schemes for preparation of urban compost from solid wastes and utilisation of sewage sullage have been in operation since the First Plan. For implementing these schemes, grants to the extent of 25% of the recurring cost, shared equally by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the State Government concerned, are given to the local bodies. Besides, loans are also advanced to the State Governments for assisting the local bodies to (1) acquire the transport needed for production and distribution of urban compost and to (2) finance sewage utilisation schemes.

The programme of utilisation of urban wastes was given special importance by including it in the Special Development Programme for Agriculture (Crash Programme) launched in 1964-65. Additional funds to the extent of about Rs. 1.37 crores were provided to the State Governments, over and above the State Plan ceilings, to enable them to take up new schemes for better and fuller utilisation of urban wastes during the last two years of the Third Plan.

(b) The maximum quantity of urban compost that could be prepared from urban wastes is estimated at 7.88 million tonnes a year. Against this, the quantity utilised at present is approximately 3.5 million tonnes representing about 45.0% of the potential production. The sewage/sullage available in towns and cities is estimated at about 700 million gallons

per day. As against this, information received from the State Governments indicates that nearly 240 million gallons (34%) per day are being utilised at present.

(c) Yes. Effective utilisation of urban compost and sewage/sullage has considerably helped in raising vegetables, fodder and short duration crops in the vicinity of towns and cities.

Shri Subodh Hansda: From the statement it appears that though the utilisation of urban waste was started in the First Five Year Plan only 45 per cent of the total potential of this urban waste is utilized now when we are at the end of the Third Plan. Are Government satisfied with this progress in view of the fact that the country is facing a food crisis today because of shortage of fertilizers?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: Out of the urban waste estimated at 7.88 million tons a year our utilisation in the last year of the Third Plan was 3.89 million tons. Our programme for the Fourth Plan is for the utilisation of 80 per cent. As we are going to utilize 6 million tons out of 7.88 million tons, we are satisfied with the progress.

Shri Subodh Hansda: My question was different. Are Government satisfied with the present progress of utilisation of only 45 per cent of the potential, especially when we are facing shortage of food?

Mr. Speaker: The Minister says that in the Fourth Plan the utilisation will be 80 per cent and, therefore, they are satisfied with the progress.

Shri Subodh Hansda: In answer to part (c) of the question I would like to know whether urban waste is utilized only for production of vegetables etc. or it has been tried for paddy and wheat cultivation and, if so, with what result?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: As the statement itself points out clearly, there are two items—urban compost and sewage and sullage. Sewage and sullage are mostly used for vegetable cultivation in the city areas themselves. As far as urban compost is concerned, it is being used in the border areas along the cities for all crops including paddy. I do not have separate figures for them with me.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that municipalities are getting help from the State as well as Central Government for the utilisation of urban waste. Now how much is charged from the cultivators by the municipalities for this? Could it not be reduced?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: As regards the pattern of assistance for the implementation of the schemes, grant to the extent of 25 per cent of the recurring cost is given to the municipalities. Besides that, loans for acquisition of transport required for production/distribution of urban compost and for sewage/sullage utilisation schemes etc. are given. By and large, the municipalities are not charging more than necessary from the cultivators. When we examined that question we found that it varies from Rs. 1 to 5 per ton of urban compost.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether any research has been conducted on utilisation of urban waste for purposes of manure? Has any aid been sought or guidance obtained from any source on this subject? What is the extent to which the crop will be augmented next year because of this manure?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: This question relates to urban compost. I have already stated the total figure. Out of this the utilisable capacity is of the order of 3.5 million tons of urban compost. Of course, we have not been able to utilize it fully. As I said, 80 per cent will be utilized by the end of the Fourth Plan.

Shri D. D. Pari: There are two types of expenditure involved in

these schemes—capital expenditure required for transport etc. and the running cost. What is the break-up of these Rs. 1.37 crores? How much of this is subsidy? May I know whether the amount allocated for this purpose has been fully utilized?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: I must make it clear that these Rs. 1.37 crores are not out of the normal funds. This was a crash programme taken up to years back. Within these two years this was the extra fund that was placed at the disposal of the State Governments. This was only for vegetable cultivation. Our estimate for sewage and sullage is 31,600 acres.

श्री यशपाल सिंह: क्या सरकार का ध्यान इस तरफ गया है कि देश के अन्दर बीमारियाँ इसलिये बढ़ रही हैं कि सीवेज और सनेज सीधा बेजिटेबल्स प्रोडक्शन में जाता है। वह बेजिटेबल्स इतनी बढ़बूदार हो जाती हैं कि उनके खाने से इन्सान न तो लांग लाइफ एन्ज्वाय कर सकता है और हेल्थ ठीक कर सकता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ने इसके बारे में क्या कार्य किया है कि इस पर पाबन्दी लगाई जाये और गन्दा पानी बेजिटेबल्स में न जाने पाये।

श्री श्यामधर मिश्र: हिसाब लगाया गया है और वह हिसाब स्टेटमेंट में दिया गया है कि

अध्यक्ष महोदय: अन्तर स्टेटमेंट में दिया गया है तो उस को दुबारा कहने की जरूरत नहीं है।

श्री यशपाल सिंह: स्टेटमेंट में दिया गया है कि बेजिटेबल बगैरह के बढ़ाने में इसका इस्तेमाल किया गया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसके लिये सरकार ने क्या कार्रवाई की है कि इस के गन्देपन को रोका जाये।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: स्टेटमेंट में दिया गया है।

श्री यशपाल सिंह: स्टेटमेंट में यह नहीं दिया गया है कि उस पर कानूनी पाबन्दी लगाई जाये।

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: I must make one thing clear. Just now he has asked a supplementary question whether the States have enacted legislation for this.

The Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri C. Subramaniam): His question was whether it breeds disease. This is one of the superstitions. I hope that at least Members of Parliament will get out of these.

Shri Yashpal Singh: It is a fact.

Shri Kapur Singh: I want to know whether there is any scientific evidence available with the Government that the advantage of usage of sewage and sullage as fertilizer is almost counter-balanced by its deleterious effect on crop vegetation for which it is used.

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: Yes, Sir. Our research centres have found out that sewage and sullage have no adverse effect, in fact have better effect when used as fertilizer. It is better than rural compost. It is inferior to inorganic manure but it is better than rural compost, because of its nutrient value.

Shri Kapur Singh: He began by replying "Yes". So, I thought he agreed with my view.

Mr. Speaker: By "Yes" he meant that an assessment has been made; not the other thing.

States hit by Drought Conditions

*1454. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether any and if so, which of the States have been able to conduct survey of the problems of the