

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We are not going carry on mathematical calculations here. He is giving the information, let us find out from him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Let me complete. There are 12 refineries in this country and it is my duty to inform the House, the cost of refining at each refinery.

IOC, Haldia	.. Rs.	123.23
IOC, Mathura	.. Rs.	87.55
IOC, Digaboi	.. Rs.	367.05
BRPL, Bongaigaon	.. Rs.	186.42

Sir, it can be seen from this that the cost has been the highest in Digboi; then comes the cost at Guwahati and then, Bongaigaon. I would again say that the refining cost is the lowest in Gujarat. (Interruptions)

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHAN-DURI: Sir, I want to inform the House through you that the cost of Motor spirit today is like this: 19.87 is the percentage of the crude cost, 2.15 per cent is the cost of refining and the balance of about 78 per cent is of excise duty, customs, etc. So, the cost of petroleum is unnecessarily increased.

Therefore my second supplementary is this. Does the Government consider selling of petroleum and other items of crude as a 'profit centre'? If it is so, is the Government aware, that about 87 per cent of the petroleum products are used by the Government and semi-Government organisations and only about five to seven per cent is consumed by the private owners? How can the Government benefit by this mere book adjustment of about 80 to 85 per cent from one Department to another Department?

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHAN-DURI: I would say that the pricing of petro-

leum products is illogical and the price of petroleum products should be reduced. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We do not have to terrorise anybody here; we have to ask questions.

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, he is just observing. He is not putting a question; he has just made certain suggestions.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall give you one more chance to put a pointed question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHAN-DURI: Will the Government reduce its profit-making from the petroleum products in view of the cost of crude and the cost of production?

MR. SPEAKER: Would you like to reduce your profit and make petrol less expensive for the people?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: We are not making profits on this.

MR. SPEAKER: You are making reasonable profits.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, in view of the escalating costs in the refinery as well as otherwise, will the Government think of introducing competition in the field, by bringing out other agencies like private agencies also?

MR. SPEAKER: I think, it is too big a question to be answered here.

Crop Insurance Scheme

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*47. SHRI DATTATRAYA BAN-
DARI:

SHRIMATI RITA VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers covered under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme during 1990-91 and 1991-92, State-wise; and

(b) the amount of premium collected and compensation paid to the farmers during the above period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMCHANDRAN): (a) and (b). A Statement indicating the number of farmers covered, premium collected and compensation paid under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) during 1990-91 and 1991-92, State-wise is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Farmers Covered		Insurance Charges		Claim paid	
		1990-91	1991-92	1990-91	1991-92	1990-91	1991-92*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	294761	571035	198.74	385.44	478.18	
2.	Andaman & Nicobar	262	396	0.13	0.21	—	
3.	Assam	21795	6195	6.59	2.12	3.98	
4.	Bihar	134708	80278	58.87	40.38	14.26	
5.	Goa	1141	1073	0.13	0.14	—	
6.	Gujarat	590355	679388	305.06	359.80	—	
7.	Himachal Pradesh	180	300	0.03	0.10	NEG	
8.	Karnataka	41056	78388	20.68	35.56	31.74	
9.	Kerala	23612	14018	12.17	8.09	2.06	
10.	Maharashtra	724002	1094869	178.74	272.96	99.17	
11.	Madhya Pradesh	212877	938657	43.45	198.06	1.57	
12.	Meghalaya	36	1275	0.01	0.68	NEG	
13.	Orissa	182650	119436	54.10	41.57	279.91	

Sl. No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Farmers Covered		Insurance Charges			Claim paid	
		1990-91	1991-92	1990-91	1991-92	1990-91	1991-92*	
		3	4	5	6	7	8	
14.	Pondicherry	1413	1799	1.86	2.19	—	—	
15.	Tamil Nadu	247397	131884	146.66	103.07	21.72	—	
16.	Tripura	1657	1130	0.83	0.40	—	—	
17.	West Bengal	258679	182239	88.37	61.25	339.30	—	
	Total:	2736583	3912340	1116.22	1511.02	1255.89	—	

NEG: Negligible.

* Kharif 1991 claims will be finalised after receipt of final yield data. Last date for submission of yield data for Kharif season is 31st January, 1992 and last date for submission of yield data for Rabi 1991-92 is 31st July, 1992. Hence claims will be known only after yield data is received.

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been mentioned in the answer that the total number of farmers covered under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme is 39 lakh. The total farmers in the country is a family of 10 crore. Does the Minister propose to increase because a large number of farmers are not covered under the scheme? Is there any new proposal or a new norm to be included to have more number of farmers for this crop scheme?

Secondly, there are some crops like tobacco, sugarcane and cotton which are very capital intensive crops. These are not included in the scheme. Does the Minister propose to include these crops also?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not a compulsory scheme. This is voluntary. But I want that more and more farmers should be having use of it because it is something which has to be ensured. For the future planning, that is the problem now.

I am having a meeting with eminent farmers from all over the country on the 17th of March and I am trying to evolve. As you might be remembering, last time during the session, I had appealed to this august House if any Hon. Member had got some viable form of any plan. This is the most difficult aspect: how to compensate and how to minimise the losses. Let us see, we may make it viable. Premium is there and indemnity is also there. It is something which has to be done. It has to be a foolproof method. Otherwise we will be failing. We have to see how much area is covered, how many crops are covered and how many States are covered. All these things are under consideration.

I would like to have the co-operation and guidance of this august House, from any Member who is interested in it, to give it to me by the 17th of March because I am having a conference on that day.

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: What is the criterion to estimate the loss of the crop? Is it district-wise or the mandal-wise or

village-wise? A large area is given under the criterion. So, a large number of farmers do not come under the coverage of the loss. May I request the Hon. Minister to have the criterion on survey number basis?

MR. SPEAKER: Will he have on the basis of survey numbers? It is very good question.

SHRIBALARAM JAKHAR: The scheme is a very restricted one. It covers the loanee up to Rs. 10,000 and the ratio is 100% of the sum insured 20% is the premium. One is given by the insurance man who gets it done and the other half is shared by the Central Government and the State Government. And with that, we have got how much is the percentage, how much is the recovery and how much loss is incurred in crop. Then, the overall picture is got by the State Government and it is restricted by the state Government. That is how we do it.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATIRITA VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply, the Hon. Minister has not specified any time limit within which insurance claims are settled. I am raising this matter because our farmers are not wealthy enough to wait for an indefinite period for the settlement of their claims. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government has fixed any time frame within which insurance claims would be settled. Secondly, it appears from the Hon. Minister's reply to the second part of the question that the cases of settlement compared to cases of insurance claims is too negligible, especially in States like Bihar. At present, settlement of a claim consumes too much time. I would like to know the steps the Government intends to take, to speedily settle insurance claims.

SHRIBALARAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it takes time as relevant procedures are to be followed. We also seek information from State Governments in this regard. Committees are constituted, wherever necessary, as in the case of Gujarat. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RITA VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, formation of Committees is a delaying tactic. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALARAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, claims are settled after considering all pros and cons. Committees are formed wherever necessary. (*Interruptions*)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Border Area Development Programme in Rajasthan

*48. **SHRI GIRDHARILAL BHARGAVA:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Border Area Development Programme in Rajasthan has been suspended since 1986-87;

(b) if so, whether this programme is still in progress in other States;

(c) whether the Government of Rajasthan have submitted some projects under this Programme to the Union Government for approval; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b). The Border Area Development programme was taken up during 1986-87 in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab. Since 1987-88 the Government reoriented the Programme so as to confine it to education sector only.

(c) No new projects have been submitted by the Government of Rajasthan to this ministry under the Programme.

(d) Question does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Development of Barren and Wasteland

*49. **SHRI RAM TAHAL CH-
OUDHARY:
SHRI DHARMANNA MON-
DAYYA SADUL:**

Will be the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area of barren and wasteland in the country, State-Wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to make them cultivable?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE : (DR. BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) Land is a State subject and productive use including cultivation falls under the purview of the State Government and subject to policies and guidelines laid down by them for this purpose. For sustainable use, land resources are to be used as per capability and suitability. The approach is therefore to render barren land and wastelands productive, not necessarily for production of agricultural crops. Presently Government do not have any specific programme exclusively for reclamation of barren land.

National Wastelands Development Board (NWDB) in the Ministry of Environment and Forests is the nodal agency to bring under productive use, wastelands in the country through a massive programme of afforestation and tree planting. For the development of wastelands, NWDB is implementing the following programmes:-

(i) Integrated Wastelands Development Projects Scheme.