

MR. SPEAKER: Don't you want this to be done or what?

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI: Sir, my question is a pertinent question.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: The hon. Member wants to know whether the Central Government is going to help the State Government in this. I don't think they are in a position to help.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, trees are being grown to protect environment and also the forests. But lakhs of carpenters in the country....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This does not arise out of it. I am disallowing. You insist in putting your question and you do not also put the pertinent question. It has nothing to do with employment. Please take your seat. Not this way. You are holding the House to ransom. You are not allowing other Members to ask the question.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has suggested to use steel and aluminium in place of wood. I would like to know from her what standards have been fixed for their durability; will be assistance if ISI be taken to ascertain that whatever alternative is used for wood, is of good quality and has a definite standard. I would also like to know whether Steel and Aluminium are available in abundance; least these things would also be in shortage like wood.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Sir, I was also concerned about it, thus I enquired about it from the people and tried to gather the required information. When I consulted the experts to know whether the life of equipments made from Aluminium, steel etc. would be short as compared to those of wood, they assured me that these

equipments will certainly have more durability. My opinion is that new systems are introduced only after conducting thorough researches. Otherwise, if the material used in the construction of the house is not durable, the house will collapse; what is the use of such building. Therefore, whatever is manufactured is produced only after a thorough research. The scientists conducting researches in this regard have revealed all this.

### Foodgrains Production in Maharashtra

\* 328. SHRIVILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of foodgrains produced in Maharashtra during 1991-92;

(b) whether the Government have drawn up a comprehensive action plan to increase the foodgrains production in Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the plan is proposed to be launched?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) During 1991-92, the total quantity of foodgrains production in Maharashtra is estimated at 80.76 lakh tonnes.

(b) to (d). No, Sir. Government of India have not drawn up any comprehensive action plan to increase the foodgrains production in Maharashtra. However, to supplement the efforts of the State Government to increase foodgrains production, various on-going Central Sector/ Centrally Sponsored Schemes like Integrated Programme for Rice Development, Special Foodgrains Production Programme for Maize & Millets and Pulses and the National Pulses Development Programmes are being implemented. The incentives being provided to the cultivators under these schemes

include distribution and production of quantity seeds, distribution of weedicides, herbicides, plant protection chemicals and equipment, farm implements etc. at a subsidised rate. Demonstration on cultivator's field and training to farmers and extension workers, are being organised to transfer newly developed technology. Besides this, minikits are being distributed to the cultivators to popularise newly evolved varieties.

[Translation]

SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply given to the unstarred question 2499 it has been stated that during the year 1989-90 the total quantity of foodgrains produced in Maharashtra was 132.4 lakh tonnes and during the year 1990-91 the quantity was 121.8 lakh tonnes. Just now, the hon. Minister told the House that during the year 1991-92 about 80.76 tonnes of foodgrains are expected to be produced. What are the reasons of the continuous decrease in the production?

The hon. Minister has also told just now that no scheme has been proposed by the Central Government to be implemented in Maharashtra. The Minister may kindly make it clear whether this is the attitude of the Central Government only towards Maharashtra or towards all the States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member must be aware that only 11.5 per cent of the total area in Maharashtra comes under irrigated land, the remaining of the area is rainfed and everything depends on God's mercy. The reason behind the fall in foodgrains from 121 lakh tonnes to 80 lakh tonnes has been the severe drought in those areas. When there is enough rainfall the production increases. Production target is fixed; the farmers have increased the production like that of jawar to 130 per cent yield during the last several years. Similarly the production of pulses has also been increased. But when there is not adequate rainfall, the production falls below the target. In regard to the point whether the

Government adopts this behaviour just towards Maharashtra or towards every State, the Central Government do provide financial assistance wherever there are schemes or proposals to this effect. But the centre is just to provide assistance, rest of the responsibility lies on the State Governments. The State Governments are to prepare the schemes and seek assistance from the Central Government - just as States are directed to prepare watershed programmes. If the hon. Member desires, I may furnish details of other programmes.

[English]

"To make rainfed areas productive through implementation of watershed development programmes and spread of dry-land technology packages;

To spread the concept of micro irrigation and sprinkler irrigation systems in order to maximise the productivity and maximise the area also;

To promote diversified cropping patterns;

The extension efforts will have to be intensified through faster transfer of technology to farmers. This will be very challenging especially in the field of horticulture and vegetable crops;

In order to supplement the efforts of the State Government, Central Sector/Centrally-sponsored schemes like Integrated Rice Development Programme, Special Foodgrains Production Programme of Maize, Millet and Pulses, National Pulses Development Programme etc. are being implemented. To fill up the gap between requirements of production and foodgrains, some of the schemes like Integrated Programme for Rice Development; Special Foodgrains Production Programmes for Maize and Millets etc. have been modified with a view to bring more and more area under high-yielding varieties, to provide

incentives on environmental friendly pesticides to save environmental degradation, reducing subsidy rate in case of Plant Protection Chemicals etc. The details of the schemes are given. We are trying to help the farmers and State Governments in their endeavour to increase their productivity.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a result of reduction in subsidies on fertilisers per hectare application of fertilisers has gone down in Maharashtra resulting in decline in agricultural production too. I would like to know whether the Government proposes to further reduce subsidies on fertilisers this year also? If so, it will definitely have an adverse effect on farmers. What does the Government propose to do in this regard?

**SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:** The Government always keeps in mind the interests of farmers. In Maharashtra fertiliser off take has not gone down, on the contrary, fertiliser utilisation has gone up by approximately 3 per cent. Interests of farmers are always taken care of by the Government and the Government will always watch their interests, as it has done in the past.

**SHRI ANNA JOSHI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the scheme of the Government to boost agricultural production in Maharashtra? What is the nature and magnitude of assistance being given by the Centre to the Government of Maharashtra? What will be the percentage of increase by this assistance. The Government has released a list wherein it is mentioned that minikits would be distributed at subsidised rates. I would like to know whether a study has been conducted to know the effect of assistance that had been given till date and the outcome thereof?

**SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already replied all these points. He has not asked anything new.

**SHRI ANNA JOSHI:** I Would like to know all about increasing production?

**MR. SPEAKER:** He has already made it quite clear that the Centre just gives assistance for the implementation of schemes formulated by the Government of Maharashtra.

**SHRI DATTA MEGHE:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Maharashtra has been made a region for increasing agriculture production in the country. HYV of jawar was being produced in Maharashtra during the Chief Ministership of Shri Vasant Rao Naik 10-15 years ago, I would like to know the magnitude of assistance and the nature of facilities being given by the Centre to supplement the allocation made for the same in the Maharashtra Budget because in Maharashtra urbanisation and industrialisation have taken place at a fast pace. That's why there are no adequate irrigational facilities for farmers. The Government receives many other benefits from Maharashtra and the maximum tax is also collected from Bombay and Maharashtra. In view of this, has the Centre got any special schemes to help the State in the matter of irrigation and supply of seeds to farmers?

**SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:** The Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance can say some thing in this regard.

**SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYAGAVIT:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has just now said that owing to just 11 per cent of the agriculture land with irrigational facilities in Maharashtra, the agricultural production is on the decline in the State. Therefore, will the Centre provide more funds for increasing irrigational facilities in Maharashtra?

**SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, funds are allocated as per the plans and programmes of the Planning Commission and the Centre.

[*English*]

**MR. SPEAKER:** Now, it a nail on the head please. You should hit the nail on the head.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI PRAFUL PATEL:** Mr. speaker, Sir, the reply dwells on agricultural production in Maharashtra. All the schemes of the Government look rosy and quite beneficial on paper, but their real impact is never fully realised.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Schemes are not of the Central Government, but of the Government of Maharashtra. The Centre just assists the State. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI PRAFUL PATEL:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, undoubtedly assistance is being given. However, I would like to say that though 'Integrated Programme for Rice Development' is there for Vidarbha region yet under the programme, as is evident, the farmers of the region have not derived any benefits. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any programme to boost paddy production in the Vidarbha region?

**SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, schemes are formulated for all the States and not for any particular region, because in the eye of the Government all are equal.

[*English*]

#### **New Oil/Gas Reserves**

\*329. **SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the new oil/gas reserves discovered from 1991 onwards, both onshore and offshore, that are commercially viable for production of petroleum products; and

(b) the time by which the production is likely to commence and the quantities expected annually therefrom?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR):** (a) Commercially

exploitable oil and gas reserves at 18 places have been found since 1991.

(b) Date of commencement of production and annual production profile would be known only after the delineation of these reserves and approval of specific projects.

**SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, our country is spending staggering amounts on the import of petroleum products and on the crude annually. Now, for making this country self-sufficient in the petroleum products and crude, war-like efforts are required. Despite all this, the statement says that the discovery is made during the last two years but they are very negligible. Out of the 18 discoveries, some of them may be only discoveries regarding the gas.

Now, with this in my mind, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, what are the details of its plans regarding the exploration work to be undertaken in the Eighth Five Year Plan and does he feel that we would achieve the near self-sufficiency at the end of the Eighth Plan?

**MR. SPEAKER:** It is a very good question.

**SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR:** That hon. Member is entirely right that we are not self-sufficient in the production of crude as well as petroleum products. We have to incur a heavy petroleum import bill.

Sir, the Ministry is engaged in intensive efforts in exploration, production and development, to improve the indigenous production of oil as well as gas and increase the refining capacity for augmentation of petroleum products. The hon. Member is asking about the Eighth Plan Programme. We intend to do a total 41,000 kilometers roughly, of 3-D seismic survey, 1,44,000 kilometers of 2-D on-shore and 92,000 kilometers of 2-D offshore seismic survey. We intend to drill 1,173 wells with a metrage of Rs. 3,000 thousand metres. We also intend to spend about Rs. 6,400 crores on exploratory drilling. It is expected that, even though the crude production has stagnated