

KUMARI UMABHARTI: I wanted to ask a supplementary on Bangladeshi refugees, but then you did not allow me.

MR. SPEAKER: Proceedings of the House cannot be conducted as per you wishes, it can only be conducted in accordance with the rules.

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: At the time even I was well within the rules. I was the first to raise hand from this side.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that whether it is a fact that the production of oilseeds has gone down in 1991-92 as compared to the production of oilseeds in 1990-91? And also whether the reason for the decline in the production of oilseeds in 1991-92 is the non-supply of the desired quality seed of Soybean and Groundnut to the State Governments on time.

SHRI BALRAMJKHAR: You must have come to know that there is just the marginal decline in the production of oilseeds that is too mainly because of the drought conditions as it did not rain during the months of August and September.

[English]

Farm Sector Income

*44. **SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:**
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita income in the

farm sector has registered a sharp decline during the last decade;

(b) if so, the details thereof of and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the per capita income of persons engaged in this sector during the Eighth Plan period; and

(d) the amount earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMCHANDRAN): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The per capita income (Net Value added) in the farm sector has increased from Rs. 878 in 1980-81 to Rs. 1075 in 1990-91 at constant prices of 1980-81.

(c) The Eighth Five Year Plan envisages to further step up income of the farming community, *inter-alia*, through diversification of agriculture, development of horticulture, animal husbandry and fishery, improvement of marketing of agricultural produce, development of post-harvest technology and agro-processing for creating value addition in agriculture. The plan also lays special emphasis to the employment generation programmes in the rural areas.

(d) The public sector outlay for the Eighth Five Year Plan earmarked for agriculture and allied sectors is Rs. 96168 crore at 1990-91 prices.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister replied that the per capita income (Net Value Added) in the farm sector has increased. When you compute, taking into account the inflation that has taken place during the last decade, the hon. Minister's reply may not be true. I see from the hon. Minister's reply that

the Government is taking certain measures to improve the income of the people in the agricultural sector. But without adequate allocation, it will not actually materialise. The present allocation during the Eighth Plan, as indicated by the hon. Minister, appears to be big but when compared with the total amount of the Budget, if we calculate the percentage, it is almost or roughly the same as the allocation made during the Seventh Plan.

So, in view of this fact will the Government take adequate steps to enhance this allocation to the agricultural sector in a much larger way so that the objectives which you have mentioned in your Part (c) answer will actually materialise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that his suggestion is laudable and according to his wishes, I think, we pleaded with the Planning Commission and got it double than what was allocated for it and we will try very hard to get more in the next coming year.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : In view of the fact that the farmers of this country are not being provided adequate credit in the right time because of which they are not able to improve the per hectare yield as well as production, will the Government increase the allocations through co-operative banks as well as commercial banks to set right the anomaly of only around 15 per cent of the net bank credit being made available to the farm sector whereas 36 per cent is given to the industrial sector?

Will the Government take necessary steps to correct it and also enhance public investment in the agricultural sector so that the farming will become remunerative and both farmers as well as agricultural labourers will try to enhance their living conditions?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Hon.

Speaker, Sir, I 125 per cent agree with what the hon. Member has said. The first thing and pre-requisite for a good farm operation is investment. Today farming is investment-oriented. You cannot do without it. But the only snag was that we had inherited something by which the whole system was discredited. The whole life-giving channel was cut into pieces. Nothing was left. The credibility of the whole credit system has gone down the drain for just political reasons. I have to resurrect it and recreate that system. I am proud to say that this year, with an allocation of Rs. 12,000 crores to Rs. 13,000 crores to agricultural sector, my target for the co-operative sector is going to be over Rs. 6,000 crores. But I am not satisfied with that. I want more investment and we are trying to create those conditions where both private and public investments can come because if there is investment in agriculture, only then, this country can progress. That is the only way out and we are going to do that and I will put it down right in the Agricultural policy.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has given his reply but we expected him to give a reply after thinking over it and doing his own calculations. He just read out the statistics provided by the Ministry of Agriculture. It is a question concerning the last decade. At that time, he was not responsible to the House. He was adorning the high office of the hon'ble Speaker, but now he will have to look into all aspects. In my opinion, the figures mentioned in the reply are fabricated.

I would like to tell you that a scientist, Dr. R.K. Mehta, working at the N.D.R.I., on a micro analysis of farm economy found that the average annual growth rate of milk production has gone up by 4.85 percent, foodgrain production by 6.43 percent, employment generation by on to 1.5 percent but the number of farm workers involved in

foodgrains production has gone up by 3.83 percent and the number of people involved in milk production by 2.08 per cent. At the same time the per capita income has fallen by 2.93 per cent. This micro analysis of the farm economy was conducted by a scientist. These figures published in the Economic Times prompted us to ask this question and we expected the Agriculture Minister to produce the accurate figures. Any other Minister in his place would also have given the same reply, because figures are prepared once in four years. However, we had great expectations from him.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you saying that the population increase should also be kept in view ?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I am not talking of population. Even now, 73% of our population depends on Agriculture for its livelihood and there has been no improvement in their standard of living. So, as I said, we felt that because the hon. Agriculture Minister is himself a farmer, he is interested in the matter and that he will collect accurate figures only, but it didn't happen and the same stere-type reply was given. In response to the second supplementary, he said that the credibility of the credit system has been severely eroded and he has raised this point deliberately. He has an objection to the loan waiver scheme that was announced by our Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the farmers get remunerative price for their produces, it will boost production, increase income and accelerate the pace of development. The Government is continuously increasing the fertilizer prices and if the procurement prices are not increased accordingly, production would remain stagnant, so would the per capita income. So, I would like to know whether the Government has any long-term strategy in this regard.

Recently, When Shri V.P. Singh went to Moga, the Government announced that it would be shortly introducing an Agricultural policy. Does the Government propose to draw any long term strategy to increase production and per capita income and also bring improvements in the Agricultural sector ? Does it propose to introduce in this Session any agricultural policy to increase employment opportunities, production, per capita income, exports etc?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. speaker, Sir, this question requires a very lengthy reply and I think I will respond to it after 4 o'clock in the evening.

Shri Nitish Kumar knows very well from whatever he is saying about the doings of his Party's Government and the improvements I am making on them. I don't want to point out to the previous Government's actions. It could be that they had conceived better thing, but at times, ignorant friends can commit mistakes, which are harmful to them and beneficial to others. However, it's all right, I am elder to you and if you have committed mistakes, I will rectify them. I am not blaming their action, it is not a sin to err and to err is humane. It should not be a cause of concern. Mistakes should be admitted, the way I do it.

I would like to tell you that this question has come to me for the second time. Yesterday, I received a reply, but I was not satisfied with it and ordered a review and this answer was finalised thereafter. The hon'ble Speaker has also made a significant observation. We are doing everything possible and we abuse the farmers for not being self-reliant in production, but have we checked up whether we have the moral right to abuse to them? Land is God's creation. It cannot be expanded further, but what is the remedy, if we continue to increase in numbers? From a meagre 34 crores, today we are 87 crores. Where is

the end to it? How do we propose to go about it? I have answered it only after reviewing it and finalising the answer in the right. It is a very long story, and I will let you know after checking it.

SHRIVIRENDRASINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member had asked about the sharp decline in the per capita income in the agricultural sector and the hon'ble Minister referred to the policies of his Government aimed at preventing a fall in the per capita income in the agricultural sector. The agricultural production is not evaluated properly. While the cost of industrial products are evaluated by the manufacturers themselves, the price of agricultural produces is fixed by the Government. There is no co-relation between the two. The farmers are affected not only by the sharp decline in their income but also by the price-rise. I would like to know whether the Government has formulated any such plan to establish some kind of co-relation between the two?

SHRIBALRAMJAKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have thought of many things. There won't be and there should not be any differences on our thinking. It is our humble duty to safeguard the interests of the farmers. The country depends on them for its survival. The hon'ble Member has suggested holding of consultations and providing remunerative prices to the farmers. I will tell you about it. The hon'ble Member may remember the prices announced last time. So far it hasn't happened and the future is in God's hands. However, how I will tell him. I will tell him about the prices of Rabi crops and the manner in which it is fixed. There is nothing to worry. However, I am more concerned about the gap and I want to fill it up. You might have observed that the per capita income in the agricultural sector is Rs. 1075/- compared to Rs. 4378/- in other sectors. I want to fill up this gap. This gap is making me restless. I want to close this gap.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in our country, even with the increase in the generation of new technology, the per capita availability of foodgrains has not increased substantially. The per capita availability of foodgrains which was started at something like 468 gram per day per person has just increased to 474 grams. The present trend, is that the foodgrains production is a declining one. Last year, it was 177 million tonnes and it has now been reduced to 172 million tonnes. Now the trend is that the area under foodgrain production is being replaced by the fish production, horticulture crop and other cash crops. What are the special steps that are being taken up by the Government to increase the productivity and also the production of foodgrains in the country so as to achieve self-sufficiency? As it is, we have not made any mark as far as per capita availability of foodgrains is concerned in the country.

SHRIBALRAMJAKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is an expert and I always value his opinion and I take his advice also. He knows what are the impediments. He knows everything. We have discussed it. The question is simple. The outgrowing population is also a drawback.

Secondly, we have to devise ways and means. But still we are seventy per cent dependent on rain-fed agriculture. We are going to do something to conserve water. We are trying to do something which will give us more from the same quantity of water - conservation plus optimum use by the minimum quantity of water, irrigation by drip, irrigation by sprinkler, irrigation by water-shade programme, conservation programme and everything. You are asking me about the availability of foodgrains. We have to increase the productivity. It is only a section of the country which is producing more; I want

to percolate it through. Its imbalance should be erased and this imbalance should be eradicated. Otherwise, you cannot do anything.

I had called the Ministers from all the Eastern States; we had a conference after 1986. I told them that if they cannot march ahead with the time, then I think we have got no right to rule; we have got no right to do whatever is needed to be done. The simple fact remains that new strategies have to be evolved' more extension services have to be raised, more Krishi Vigyan Kendras have to be established, so that we can give proper knowledge, training to the farmers and they can apply the new techniques and everything else. That is why, we have to match our efforts with the needs which are facing us.

[*Translation*]

Drought Prone Areas In Bihar

45. SHRI RAM TAHAL CH-
 OUDHARY:
 SHRI LALL BABU RAI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of the drought prone areas in Bihar;
- (b) the relief work carried out in this areas during the last three years; and
- (c) the funds allocated to Bihar by the Union Government during the said period?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMCHANDRAN): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). Fifty four Blocks in the Districts of Palamu (24), Monghyr (7), Rohtas (7), Nawada (9), and Santhal Paraganas (7), have been identified as Drought Prone Areas under the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP).

Government of Bihar had not reported any drought conditions in the State during 1990 and 1991. Due to the erratic and deficient rainfall during the Sought-West monsoon drought conditions have been reported in 29 Districts of Bihar during the current year. The relief measures undertaken by the State Government in this areas include :-

- i) implementation of a Contingency Crop Plan,
- ii) providing additional employment through earthwork schemes,
- iii) reserving adequate diesel and electric supplies for irrigation purposes,
- iv) providing drinking water in the affected areas,
- v) providing gratuitous relief and opening of "Sasti Roti Ki Dukans",
- vi) streamlining the Public Distribution Systems,
- vii) measures for prevention of epidemics and for assured supply of essential medicines,
- viii) ensuring adequate veterinary care and provision of fodder for the cattle.

An annual allocation Rs. 35 crores has been made under the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) to Bihar to be contributed by the Central and the State Government in the ratio of 3:1. The Central share of CRF for the