

Small and Marginal Farmers

*20. SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA:
SHRI SUBASH CHANDRA
NAYAK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of marginal and small farmers in the country;

(b) the average annual estimated quantity of foodgrains produced by these farmers;

(c) whether these farmers are not getting any significant benefit due to high cost of production; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the production level does not fall on account of non-availability of incentives to such marginal farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) As per Agricultural Census 1985-86 (latest available), the marginal and small farmers constitute 57.8% and 18.4% respectively of the total number of farm holdings.

(b) As the technology is neutral to scale, the quantity of foodgrains produced by these farmers is expected by them which is 13.4% for marginal farmers and 15.6% for small farmers as per 1985-86 Agricultural Census.

(c) and (d). These farmers are getting significant benefits from the modern technology as well as various crop-oriented production programmes being implemented by the Government which include components of incentives specially for marginal and small farmers.

Production of Wheat and Rice

1. SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK:
DR. ASIM BALA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been anticipating increased demand for wheat and rice in the country during 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether internal production rate at present may not be sufficient to tide over the demand; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to increase rice and wheat production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c). The demand for foodgrains including wheat and rice in 1993, is expected to be fully met by domestic production of foodgrains which is expected to be 17.6 million tonnes during 1992-93.

(d) Besides marketing and price support operations, expansion of irrigation, etc., the Government is presently implementing Integrated programme of Rice Development (IPRD) and Special Foodgrains Production Programme -Wheat (SFPP Wheat) for increasing production of these crops in the country.

[Translation]

Bridges in Madhya Pradesh

2 SHRI SHIV RAJ SINGH CHAUHAN:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: