

they procure foodgrains at lower rates from the farmers and then sell to these agencies. Has the hon. Minister information about it? If so, what are the steps taken by the Government to stop this practice?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the supplementary asked by the hon. Member and today in the morning the Minister of Agriculture informed me on telephone about such complaints from several places. I have directed the Food Corporation of India and the Secretary—Food in the morning itself that they should see it that no such malpractice takes place.

[English]

Capital Formation in Agriculture

*764 **DR MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA**
SRHIBOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) the comparative growth rate of capital formation in agriculture in the sixties, seventies, eighties and nineties, and

(b) the steps being taken to remove wide inter-regional differences in productivity and production of foodgrains in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) (a) The average growth of gross capital formation in agriculture was 6.6%, 6.8% and (-) 1.5% respectively during sixties, seventies and eighties. The average growth during 1990-91 and 1991-92 was 2.8%.

(b) To increase crop productivity and reduce inter-regional differences, Government of India is implementing a number of Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Programmes in various identified regions.

[Translation]

DR MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply of my question the hon. Minister has stated that the average growth rate is 6.6, 6.8, 1.5 respectively and then he has mentioned an increase of 2.8 per cent in it. In fact it is not increase in the growth rate rather it is decrease. The expected growth in the production of foodgrains could not take place. Last year a lot of discussion took place in this House that why 10 lakh tonnes of wheat was imported and why that the production of wheat was not increased. Has the Government made any such review as to how much per cent this growth rate should be increased so that the country may become self-reliant in the field of foodgrains?

MR. SPEAKER It is a very good question.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM In reply to the original question I had accepted that there had been decrease in overall capital formation. The Government is considering seriously in this regard and is making efforts to increase it. So far as the country's self-reliance in the field of foodgrains is concerned there has been an increase in the plan allocations after 80's. There has also been an increase in the Eight Five Year Plan and increase in 1991-92 plan allocation and it will fulfil this deficit.

DR MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA Reply to the second part of my question has also not been given properly. My question was as to what efforts had been made to do away the regional imbalances in productivity and production? The imbalances between the states is due to three main reasons, i.e., drought, flood and lack of irrigation facilities. There is an irrigation project named as 'Jaldhara'. The National Development Council has approved 105 schemes out of 117 schemes. Similarly the states have sent 1760 projects which have been approved by States Irrigation Development Committees. The delay in the implementation of these schemes is due to non-availability of financial aid by the Central Government.

MR SPEAKER The first supplementary was good but you are deviating in the second one

DR MAHADEEPAKSINGH SHAKYA I am coming to that point These projects have been started to remove these imbalances and to enhance the production but states are unable to complete these due to lack of funds I would like to ask as to whether you are ready to bear this burden to complete schemes so that the country may become self-reliant

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) Mr Speaker, Sir the hon Member has asked two supplementaries and if we try to understand it in detail then we will come to know that how far we have reached and how much progress we have made From the figures given it seems that the investment has decreased or there is less capital formation but if we seen another aspect of it then we will find that there is progress in our plan, if it was not so then we would have not achieved the target of 118 crore tonnes If we are able to increase it 3 per cent more than we will be ahead of that target You have pointed about the region to region imbalances I want to assure you that we are very much concerned about this issue and want to remove it because if we have to meet the requirement of food grains in the coming years or after 2000 AD we will have to think over it The pace with which the population is increasing we will have to admit this fact I would like to tell you about the steps you have suggested that there are problems Many new schemes are introduced but first of all we have to complete the on-going projects Therefore our main stress is on completing the projects in hand Unless the problem of irrigation is not solved we have to depend on rain water The Government is taking steps for that All these things are in our mind I would like to tell you

[*English*]

Steps taken to improve the productivity of various food grains in different states

[*Translation*]

What we want to do in it

[*English*]

Expansion of area under high yielding variety

[*Translation*]

The Government would like to provide increased use of quality seeds efficient use of fertilizers and efficient use of irrigation water and for this purpose and we would like to provide 50 per cent grants Production can be increased ten times by drift irrigation and sprinkling irrigation and the Government want to provide subsidy for the purpose The Government wants to make all possible efforts for adequate plant protection and is opening Krishi Vigyan Kendras, which impart training to the farmers Along with it, the Government wants to re-organise the sector through transfer of technology You are saying that the Union Government will bear all financial burden to remove the regional imbalance, which is not possible All the financial burden is borne jointly Both will have to do something State Government will bear some part of it and the major share will be borne by the Central Government and we have done that We have approved the schemes have made plan allocation also which is 22 per cent higher than the last year

SHRI NITISH KUMAR Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon Minister has not stated anything specific in his reply about removing regional imbalances in the agriculture sector The target for food grains production by the turn of the century is fixed at 240 metric tonnes This target is difficult to achieve till regional imbalances are removed Through you I would like to know from the Government whether any policy has been formulated to increase productivity and agricultural production in the agriculturally backward Eastern region of the country?

SHRI BALARAM JAKHAR Mr Speaker,

Sir, I would like to impress upon Shri Nitish Kumar the need of extending help by his State in this regard. Without State's help nothing can be achieved. Only the State can implement effectively any scheme. The Centre will give all the assistance but power, irrigation and other facilities are to be made available by the State. Wherever these were made available results had been quite encouraging. I have great expectations from Bihar and as long as there is hope everything is fine. I urge Shri Nitish Kumar to make the power available by his state. Not a single MW power could be generated in the State. There everything is in bad shape. The Centre has invested Rs. 60 crores in the project for production and for maize and rice a sum of Rs. 25 crores and 80 crores respectively has been allocated. For national pulse development Rs. 25.5 crores have been allocated. I am in favour of making available all the facilities for the speedy development of the State. This is my desire. You please do all this so that your state may prosper and make progress.

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the capital formation in agriculture is highly necessary in the interest of higher production in the country. The capital formation is very poor in our country.

In view of this will the Government consider to consolidate the land holdings and coordinate the land holders so that the goal of capital formation can be achieved in the field of agriculture. If the reply is in affirmative what steps have been taken by the Government towards this end?

SHRI BALARAM JAKHAR: The capital formation is naturally due to money and the income. You might like to appreciate that the only thing is to put money in the pocket of farmers. If the income of the farmers increases they naturally will invest that into agriculture and that is why during the last one and a half year. you would notice, that the increase in the procurement

price, i.e. support price, which I have given was the highest ever in the record. That is why I want to put money into that.

Secondly, about the consolidation of the project which is very important too. I have put that in my agricultural policy also. That is one of the major factors and that is why I am giving subsidy to my farmers like for a small tractor, Rs. 30,000 worth one tractor. This way they can get together with their land of 4 acres or 5 acres or 10 acres and can make a plot of 30 or 40 acres so that they can produce something more. Make available all the ingredients which are needed on technology front fertilizer and other things like good seeds and can help their income grow, that is why, I would say that consolidation is must.

Now according to the present law what we have done so far and the progeny is whoever the inheritors are it gets divided. So, naturally it can only be on a cooperative basis or only on a friendly joint venture basis.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that farmers income can go up only if agricultural productivity increases. There is a need to go in for levelling of cultivable land for increasing agricultural production so as to remove regional imbalances. The farmers in agriculturally prosper areas take full advantage of all the schemes, but the farmers in the backward areas lag behind as they are not in a position to invest 50 per cent of their income for irrigation purposes. I would like to categorically know whether the Government will ponder over giving special facilities to the poor farmers of the backward regions so that they may take full benefits of the ongoing schemes?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, I did not find a single affluent farmer all over the country. I know my region which produces maximum food grains in the country. A region comprising Haryana, Punjab, district Kangra, Teshil Una

and Chandigarh used to produce a surplus of 33,000 tonnes of foodgrains. Now the same area (*Interruptions*) No, only the people have made it prosper.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: I am referring to poor and backward areas.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: The people of the State and the Government have collectively made it possible and no one alone can do much on its own. It all depends on the State Government as to how do they implement the schemes and how do they in this direction? How much love do they have for the country and how much they are committed to the people. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: I am particularly talking about the responsibility of the Centre. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the Eastern Region. A Committee, S.R. Sen Committee, was set up by the Reserve Bank of India and the report is available with the Agriculture Ministry. They have identified some areas, like Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal, and Eastern Uttar Pradesh as the main areas for which special attention has to be paid by the Government of India and the respective State Governments. In view of the recommendations of the S.R. Committee report, what exactly is the Government of India proposing to do in those areas to enhance the productivity and also enhance the production of foodgrains?

The position of irrigation in Orissa is that the average is 16 per cent, the lowest according to the all India average. The utilisation of fertilizer per capita is also the lowest in Orissa when compared to the all India average. In view of that sprinkler irrigation and drip irrigation are far-reaching measures. Their immediate requirement of the area is infrastructure for irrigation. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, in the context of the Sen Committee

recommendations, what exactly is the Government of India going to do for those areas?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: May I inform the House that this Sen Committee was set up in 1966 and that no meeting was held for six years? I called for a meeting. I invited the Chief Ministers and I do not think that they appreciated my gesture. They did not consider it important to attend the meeting; but they sent their Agriculture Ministers. But I worked with them and formulated certain proposals. I feel that they should have appreciated the importance and tried to implement the measures we have suggested.

[*Translation*]

Fish Farms/Hatcheries

*765. SHRI DILEEPBHAI SANGHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fish farms/hatcheries set up under the National Programme for Fish Seed Production during each of the last two years; State-wise;

(b) the amount provided by the Union Government for this purpose, State-wise particularly which are under President's Rule; and

(c) the production of fish seeds in these farms in regard to "FRY" State-Wise?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No additional fish seed farm project was taken up under the National Programme for Fish Seed Production during the last two years as the scheme was transferred to the States.