

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: What the Government is doing is in the interest of small farmers and not the big farmers. The State Governments have been directed to follow the guidelines in this regard and implement the project accordingly.

SHRI RATILAL VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, subsidy of Rs. 726.93 lakh was provided to small farmers in Gujarat during 1992-93 but it has been curtailed to Rs. 405.96 lakh in 1994-95. I would like to know the reasons for this curtailment. Has it been done because the State Government did not utilise the funds or there was some other reason?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: It is only through the report they provide, that reveals the details of the expenditure thereafter, the funds are allocated as per their demand.

Loss to Crops

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*426. DR. RAMKRISHNA
KUSMARIA:
SHRIMATI DIPIKA H.
TOPIWALA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is losing nearly twenty to thirty per cent of crop yields due to pests and other diseases;

(b) if so, the names of States that are most affected alongwith the damage caused to the crops during the last three years;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government in the Eighth Plan period to combat this menace; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (d). A *Statement* is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Considerable loss in productivity is experienced due to different types of weeds. Besides, crop losses are also caused by pests and diseases. The estimated losses, in general, vary from 10-30% depending on crop variety, pest, weather and location etc. No comprehensive studies have been made regarding the exact extent of losses in the States. However, generally the incidence of pests and diseases during last three years has been noticed in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, Assam and Mizoram.

(c) and (d). During VIII Plan, Government is implementing a comprehensive Central Sector Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Scheme. Under this Scheme, emphasis is being given on training of State Extension Workers and farmers in the farmers' fields so that they can effectively adopt IPM approach to maximise crop production.

Integrated Pest Management Programme, *inter-alia*, involves the adoption of appropriate cultural practices, use of mechanical devices, sex pheromones, conservation and augmentation of bio-control agents and preferential use of bio-pesticides and neem based pesticides.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoli): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has said in his reply that no comprehensive studies have been made regarding the exact extent of losses in the States. Sir, every year crop losses are caused by pests and diseases and agriculture is the main stay of our country and our entire economic policy is dependent on agriculture but this reply shows that our Minister of Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture are not serious about it...

MR. SPEAKER: You are supposed to ask a question.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: I am coming to the question. 30% crops are destroyed by these pests. Recently, 30 per cent of the soyabean crops have been destroyed in Madhya Pradesh by Gurdle Beetle, Gandhi Buck destroys paddy crop every year. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to what measures have been taken by the Government to combat the menace of pests...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Agricultural Departments in all the States take care in their own ways. It is their responsibility to see as to what problem is being faced when and where. Accordingly the arrangements are made for the eradication of the problem. It is nothing new. It is happening not only in India but in the whole world. It is like human body, which faces problems and diseases. Similarly, there are bound to be problems in the matter of crops also. What is required to be done is to eradicate these diseases. We keep on trying for that.

The different diseases have different curses and there are different types of pest-control. We have pest-control systems which are in practice in the world and we have tried to streamline it further. We have made provision for imparting training to all concerned. We are setting up training camps also. We have set up 26 centres where not only the trainers but the farmers will also be imparted training. They will be taught to use different pesticides in appropriate measure because the excessive use of the pesticides can have harmful effects. The excessive use of pesticides kills friendly pests also which need to be protected. We are taking care of all these things and even trying to have bio-control in a Natural way. We are trying to have the friendly pests fight with the enemy pests. We have set up new laboratories to breed them where we are multi-playing them many times. Then, we will try to release them on agricultural fields. Besides, we have neem-based pesticides also. We are popularising them and showing how these are to be used. We are also teaching them the method of inter-cropping and telling them to proper time for sowing and the circumstances under which these pests multiply Like, Soyabean, Cotton and rice suffer from different kind of diseases. We try to teach them different methods to control the various diseases separately.

We are very much alert on this front and have been making efforts to tackle this problem properly and have been considerably successful.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Mr. Speaker: Sir, no reply has been given about the pests, I had mentioned and secondly, he has said that no studies have been made as regards the damage causes to crops in various States. My second question is that this year locusts

have caused extensive damage to crops in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what measures have been taken by the Government to tackle this menace:

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, this time we have launched a very active programme to tackle the locusts. It has been controlled effectively, otherwise, there would have been large scale damage to the crops. This time, the attack was very awful. The locusts had covered a stretch of 15 kilometres at a time... (*Interruptions*)... You have not seen it, I have seen it myself... (*Interruptions*)... The assistance was provided not only from the Centre but from foreign countries like Australia, England, America and FPO as well and aeroplanes and 600 vehicles were borrowed from States and the menace was combated like a military operation and only then, the problem could be tackled otherwise the damage would have been immeasurable.

[*English*]

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: Is it not a fact that this year 20 per cent yield of the cotton crop in north India has been affected because of the pest attack particularly in Punjab, Haryana and other places? Our soil needs neem seeds in their natural form to control pest eternally particularly for cotton crop. Will the Government come forward to distribute neem seed power in its natural form to the marginal farmers in the sowing season?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, there has been a decline in the production of cotton not only in India but in Pakistan

and China also. The reason behind it is the delayed rains which resulted in a disease of the buds, called *Holiothis*. It has caused damage but it does not a perennial disease. Certain neem-based pesticides have been formulated. We are trying to ensure that neem-based fertilisers is used. We will also consider what you are saying.

[*English*]

SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW: Through certain representations and also on the Floor of the House, we have brought to the notice of the hon. Minister the loss incurred by the cash crops especially cardamom and pepper in Kerala. What action has been taken regarding this during the last one year and also the steps envisaged in the Eighth Plan?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: The following methods have been undertaken by the State Government in consultation with the Central Government to tackle the problem of quick wilt disease in pepper:

Supply of input kits containing recommended doses of fertilizers and plant protection chemicals for 20 vines each to small and marginal farmers. We have made available something like 1,17,000 input kits costing Rs. 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ crores.

An integrated programme for the management of quick wilt disease of pepper vines during 1992-93 and 1993-94 at an average outlay of Rs. 2 crores has been approved by the Kerala Government.

Another 4000 rocker sprayers with accessories costing Rs. 75 lakh were also purchased and distributed to 565 pepper vine Protection Committees.

[Translation]

DR. P.R. GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ours is an agricultural country but our 30% of our crops are destroyed by pests.

MR. SPEAKER: We are aware of it all, please come to the question.

(Interruptions)

DR. P.R. GANGWAR: I want to ask what is being done to bring down the prices?... (Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing to bring down the prices?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: There is no such plan at present.

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Is the Government aware that some pesticides are being formulated in our country which are banned abroad? The agriculture industry in Bihar has also been inflicted with a disease for several years and no cure is in sight. I would like the hon'ble Minister to give reply to both these questions.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a good question.

[Translation]

Are these certain pesticides, which are banned abroad, but are being used here?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: This aspect is looked after by the Department of Fertilizers. We allow the use of only

useful pesticides. We propagate only such pesticides. (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: Sir, I would like to say that the reply given by the hon'ble Minister suggests as if there will be no further damage to the crops now onwards. It seems that he wants to restrict the problem of pests and disease to marginal and small farmers but the menace of pests and diseases is not limited to the poor and marginal farmers alone, it concerns all the farmers. The entire area affected by pests and diseases should be taken as one unit and the work should be undertaken to protect the crops.

Sir, in the low lying areas of Bihar mainly the Rabi Crop is cultivated and these crops are extensively damaged every year due to pests and diseases. Last year also there was extensive damage to the crops but no steps were taken to check it. Do the Government propose to have an aerial spray of pesticides of these areas to combat the problem as is done in the locust-affected areas?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: This problem is not restricted to the low lying areas alone, it persists in other areas as well... (Interruptions)... I would like to mention that we have banned 14 and 17 more are under consideration... (Interruptions) I would also like to mention that in our implementation programme of IPM THRUST which is under consideration, we are proposing to set up 26 IPM centres which will have infra-structural facilities. We are setting up four new IPM centres. These are being set up in North Eastern areas, Itanagar, Agartala and Imphal... (Interruptions)...

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: I have asked about Bihar.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: This applies to all the States. The programme has been launched in every State. It has been launched in Bihar also... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: The names you mentioned did not include Bihar.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: It is for Bihar also... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. SPEAKER: You may send the detailed information about Bihar.

[*English*]

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Mr. Speaker Sir, earlier the Agricultural Aviation Division was very strong and they were having experts also. It is not only that hiring of aircraft will do for controlling of pests on large scale to be spread in a short time, so I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Agricultural Aviation Division is being made strong or whether the aircraft which were already available are being sold because the division is not having the Budget.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: The hon. Member's suggestion is perfectly all right. It is very much needed. There was a wing with the Agricultural Ministry which was wound up and handed over to Vayudoot.

I am trying to get it back. I have moved in the matter. If that is agreed, then I think we shall have the capacity to have the aerial spraying which will be helpful in controlling the pests.

New Varieties of Seeds

*427. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new varieties of rice, wheat and mustard seeds have been developed which have given better performance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas for which these new varieties have been recommended, crop-wise and variety-wise;

(d) whether these new varieties are multiplied subsequently for higher production; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (e). A *Statement* is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The details of new varieties of seeds of rice, wheat and mustard developed during the last three years are given in *Annexure*.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The released varieties are put into the seeds multiplication chain, viz; breeder seed, foundation seed and certified seed.