

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, August 23, 1994/
Bhadra 1, 1916 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Agricultural Implements

*401 SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress in experimental work being done to develop new agricultural implements has been found satisfactory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the names of the new agricultural implements developed during the last three years as a result 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 House.

STATEMENT

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Research work is undertaken by the ICAR Research System for development of new agricultural implements through the following ICAR Institutes/All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP):
1. Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal.
 2. Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow.
 3. Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack.
 4. Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla.
 5. Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad.
 6. India Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.
 7. AICRP on "Farm Implements and Machinery".
 8. AICRP on "Intensive Testing of Power Tillers and Research and Development New

Machines to Make them versatile”.

9. AICRP on “Utilization of Animal Energy with Enhanced System Efficiency”.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research lays great emphasis on the development of agricultural implements through its AICRPs in the field of Agricultural Engineering. Agricultural implements/equipments developed during the past three years from tilling to threshing operation are summarised below.

Tillage:

1. Hydro Tiller for puddling operation.
2. CIAE multipurpose tool frame with attachments for tillage, bund forming, interculture, groundnut planting.
3. Tractor drawn P.T.O. driven harrow.
4. Tractor drawn no till planter.
5. Disc harrow-cum-puddler bullock drawn.
6. Tractor drawn clod breaker.

Sowing:

1. Bullock drawn seed cum fertilizer drill.

2. Seed cum fertilizer drill for small seeds like mustard, pearl millet.

3. Bullock and tractor drawn cup type seed-cum-fertilizer drill for paddy, sorghum.

4. CRIDA Bullock drawn Seed-cum-fertilizer drill attachment for country plough.

5. Manual Rice transplanter, Power Tiller operated rice transplanter and self propelled rice transplanter.

6. Tractor drawn sugarcane sett cutting machine-cum-planter.

7. Power tiller operated potato planter.

Interculture:

1. Manual hoe weeder.
2. Wheel hoe weeder-cum-seeder.

Spraying:

1. Self propelled sprayer for cotton crops.
2. Battery operated low volume sprayer.

Harvesting:

1. Self propelled reaper harvester.
2. Groundnut cum-potato digger.
3. Power tiller operated harvester.

Threshing:

1. Multicrop thresher.
2. Sunflower thresher.
3. Groundnut stripper.

Others:

Improved Yokes and Harness
for Draught Animals.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked in the part (a) of my question as to whether the progress in experimental work being done to develop new agricultural implements has been found satisfactory. The hon. Minister has replied in the affirmative, though this was a misleading answer. You are aware that Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture has expressed dis-satisfaction in its report. I would like to know, through you, from the hon. Minister as to whether this report is correct though he has termed it satisfactory. I would like to know the reaction of the Government and the hon. Minister thereon.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all an experiment is done for everything then only it is put on trial and then it is implemented. According to the results of trial further progress and modifications are made. We have given you a list of all the works undertaken by our institutions over the years. If there is any scope for improvement, that is also undertaken.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Parliamentary Committee constituted by you has

expressed its dissatisfaction over it even then the hon. Minister is expressing his satisfaction thereon. Since the hon. Minister calls himself a son of a farmer he may be well aware of the fact that how the farmers are making use of the agricultural equipments. The hon. Minister must know this also that it is imperative to have new technical equipments in order to have an increased production and for the farmers to be facilitated in their work with more vigour and inclination. These institutions have been entrusted with the work of modernising agricultural equipments in the country and the research work in making equipments conducive to the Indian conditions. Though the number of these institutions has increased, but they have not done any outstanding work. As a result thereof an amount to the tune of Rs. 16 crores given every year in the name of farmers is going waste. These funds are being misused by the officers sitting in air-conditioned offices. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether any official has been held responsible during the review undertaken in regard to the Institutions involved in the work of developing and modernising agricultural equipments? If yes, what action has been taken against him? Besides, I would like to ask whether the Government have held talks with the Ministry of Finance to maintain a cheaper price of agricultural equipments to enable the farmers to get these at cheaper rates.

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, in answer to the main question itself, we have detailed out the research work being done for the improvement of agricultural implements in the country as well as the break through we have made. These are the more important of them.

The policy of the Ministry is to understand the actual situation in our country. Even now, the agricultural operations in 5 per cent of the holdings is done by manual applications such as in the North-East; about 50 per cent is still done by animal power and about 30-35 per cent is done by mechanised or power-driven or energy-driven implements. So, the research effort spans across all the sections of agriculture. The average holding in India is only 1.69 hectares. We have to take that into account.

So, the improvement of the agricultural implements or machinery is an on-going process. I have got a complete list of all the break through we have made in research. We spend about Rs. 51 crores for this in the Eighth Plan. For machinery, it is Rs. 15 crores; for post-harvest technology, it is Rs. 27 crores; for energy upgradation, it is Rs. 7.45 crores; and for drainage, it is Rs. 1.5 crores. Research is being done at the State level and at the Central level.

We have got the All India Coordinated Research Projects. We have got the Agro-machinery Corporations. Already we have built a manufacturing based for implements in our country. Thousands of small scale industries have come up. One million village artisans are working for the production of agricultural implements. We have developed one of the world's best tractor industries.

As regards the officers and the complaints against them again, it is a general question. If there is any specific allegation or anything like that, we will be able to give you the information.

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the sugarcane and the

rice research institutes are working nicely. But, in view of the maximum export of grapes and onion from Maharashtra, the hon. Minister has declared in the House that there will be two national institutes; one for the research of onion and garlic at Nasik and another for the research of grapes in Manjri. The required land has already been handed over to the Central Government.

MR. SPEAKER: The main question is about the agricultural implements.

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: When will these two institutes be commissioned?

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is disallowed.

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Sir, this is also related to the research work.

MR. SPEAKER: No Shri Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to ask this question that our district in Bihar was World-famous for the production of potatoes before independence and people used to come here from even places like Peshawar.

MR. SPEAKER: It relates to agricultural implements and not to agricultural crops.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: I am asking about the research work only. It was only a small background. I want to say that whatever institutes have been set up for the development of new agricultural equipments are located in

Bhopal, Lucknow, Cuttack, Shimla, Hyderabad, etc. None of all the above places has an extensive production.

MR. SPEAKER: See, I will disallow this also.

[*English*]

This is about agricultural implements. Please understand it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: I come straight to the question. I would like to ask the hon. Minister that Bihar is also included in those places where there is more scope for setting up these Research Centres and where the requirement of the these implements is more. There is no dearth of infrastructure at such places. Are you proposing to set up a Research Centre at a place like Bihar?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is also disallowed.

DR. B. G. JAWALI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I most congratulate the hon. Minister for having undertaken so many research work and for all the progress. I have gone through the list. One important aspect which is the backbone of agriculture, particularly of the rural areas, is the bullock-cart.

Now, nowhere it is found that some research has been done for the improvised bullock-cart. Almost 40 per cent of the accidents are related to bullock-carts, etc. If you go to an orthopaedic hospital, the patients are from the rural areas. The cases are

either bullock-cart accidents or are due to some of the agricultural implements.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has got any proposal to have a thorough research on the improvised bullock-cart system.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, upgradation of animal energy and the draught power of about 80 millions animals still constitute a very important ingredient of the Indian farming system. It is on the high priority of the ICAR. There are all-India coordinated research projects dealing with this subject. I will give your salient achievements of the animal energy system.

MR. SPEAKER: No, Mr. Minister. He is very specific. He is on bullock-carts only.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Several new varieties of bullock-carts have already been developed.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, there is a lot of improvement in bullock-carts. The new innovations have come which are more feasible. Bullock-carts can carry more loads. There is less burden on the bullocks.

MR. SPEAKER: There are bullock-carts with rubber-tyres.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: These have made it more feasible....(*Interruptions*) We are trying everywhere else to give impetus to bullock-driven carts and also implements.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: The cultivation in our country is being done

according to a new technique. Earlier in our district Udaipur there used to be a college run by Agricultural Research Council. The advisis were imparted training in that college to undertake cultivation by using new techniques. Now it has been shifted to Bikaner. New agricultural techniques are invented in all the developed areas but not much attention is paid to advasi areas. I want to ask the Government whether new techniques would be introduced in advasi areas also so that the local farmers could increase the produce in their small tracts of land?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: A new Agricultural Science Centre is proposed to be opened there also.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: The ordinary tractors cannot be operated in hilly areas as the land is uneven. The livestock is also on a decrease and getting expensive. I would like to know as to whether the Government propose to give financial assistance to Himachal Pradesh for it to develop such a tractor which could be useful in cultivation in hilly areas?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: You have said the right thing. We are considering it.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: All our stress is on the modernisation of agriculture equipments. As villages are being provided Harvester combines and they are being operated. Are you aware of its disadvantages? For example, when the wheat is cut from above and there is shortage of fodder, wheat remains in the earth. So, the animals do not get fooder. This is also creating its shortage. Are you proposing to make some other agricultural equipment in place of

harvester combine to protect the fodder and ensure wheat also or are you conducting some research in this regard?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Because its cutting cannot be done at a time and immediate irrigation or sowing of paddy cannot be done. This system was in practice throughout the country. It shattered the work.

So far as the husk is concerned, we have developed a new system and baling has also been done. New machines have also been obtained but then we would not be able to do anything without their help. We have to move forward and not backward.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: I want to make you progress more.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Please listen to me. The places where we operate combines, the daily wages of the labourers is from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 but the places where harvester combines are not operated, the cultivation is not upto the mark and we are not able to give even the wages to the labourers.

That is why I want that the production should increase and the production can be increased only when the knowledge increases and new equipments are adopted.

You say that the livestock is decreasing. It is not so. We have the maximum livestock and we should not worry about that.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Then why are we going to import cowdung from abroad.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Where from you have heard all this. I say it is absolutely incorrect. There is no need for us to import cow-dung from anywhere. Neither we have imported cow-dung nor we intend to do so. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know how do they hear such ridiculous things.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are a large number of small farmers in our country. Is it the reason that the Government is making small tractors or harvester combines or some other agricultural equipments which could be useful to small farmers and could be easily purchased by them as all the other present agricultural tractors and harvesters etc. are very expensive, the price which a small farmer can not afford. Now a days a tractor costs rupees from two to three lakhs. The same is the case with other agricultural equipments. That is why I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government would make efforts to enable the farmers to get some small tractors etc. which could be purchased at Rs. 30-40 thousands?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a subsidy of Rs. 30 thousand is being given on the tractor. I am giving a subsidy of Rs. 30 thousands in place of a small tractor, and making efforts side by side to continue giving this subsidy in future also.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister of Agriculture that there is no specific improvement in the cultivation despite the use of new equipments. You are showing data that the production has increased. Actually a good monsoon is resulting in increased

production and you are taking all the credit. When there is less production due to drought the whole blame is put on the God. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that the number of small farmers in villages is quite large and your agricultural equipments are very expensive, thus these small farmers cannot buy these equipments because financially they are not very sound nor do they have such big tracts of land. Is the Government proposing to set up an institute to manufacture inexpensive agricultural equipments for the small farmers which would impart training to small farmers on how to manufacture such equipments and they could make these equipments which could be useful for them?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the sowing is concerned. I am praying, sitting in this House that you should understand that these agricultural fields would turn into football fields. Earlier the population was 34 crore now it has increased to 90 crores.

The land was produced by God once. It does not increase every day. It will remain as it is. The more the population the more it will be shared. That is why it is important that a new system of production should be evolved to increase the production. That is why we are trying to manufacture new equipments for the small farmers they could afford and which could be useful for them. That is why I am giving subsidy on it. The subsidy is being given alongwith the implement. this is what we are doing.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I am glad that I have succeeded at last, in catching your eyes.

MR. SPEAKER: Well this is 'agricultural implements'.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, my question is very specific. Jute is part of agriculture. Are there any developments in agricultural implements, specific of jute, on which research is going on in any institute in India and, in particular, in an institute which is engaged in jute research in Barackpore in my constituency? Is the hon. Minister aware, which kind of implements they have developed for specific jute cultivation?

[Translation]*

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to say and sometimes, have to think also of stopping jute cultivation, then what price we will get. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This matter is straight from library and not from Agricultural field. It is from the library and not even from the lab.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have mentioned a scheme for the development of new agricultural equipments. Everybody is aware that India is mainly an agricultural country. The farmers as well as agricultural labourers working in fields are related to the field of agriculture. The new equipments are being manufactured whether big or small, they will continue to be useful in agricultural production

works on traditional basis. There have been 3 thousand varieties of ploughs and we have had a traditional system of sowing and irrigation. Several machines in the agricultural field are of traditional types. I feel that agricultural equipments have been invented on the basis of those traditional systems. I would like to put a question to the Government that as they are inventing big and small mechanical equipments but has the attention of the Government been drawn to this fact that as to what would become of the labour put in by the agricultural labourers? Is any coordinating scheme been formulated in view of the labour put in by them? And whether any special work is being undertaken in the area of agriculture by coordinating these machines with the labour put in by them?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: You are talking about the old system of things. If you want to continue talking about the past then why do you go to space and why do you progress..... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: You must find it out (Interruptions)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I am listening and replying to that only. He had mentioned to continue doing what used to be done in the past. These ensure progress. That is why these are used (Interruptions).... Please listen to me. That is why we talk of labour force. Where the production is increased by the Government the rate of wages also increases. Where there is no production, the rate of wages also does not increase. These are the equipments. I had given the same reply last year.... (Interruptions)... How it is increasing? This is what I am saying that it will ensure progress. If you do not want progress then there are no means.

[English]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Sir, the Minister in his reply has stated that our research institutes have developed 20 types of implements and equipment during the last three years and he has also given a list. I want to know how far these implements are in demand among the cultivators. Has the Government got any information on this aspect? Secondly, on which implements is the demand increasing? Is the Government giving any subsidy on those implements which are in demand so that there will be more and more demand for such implements among the cultivators?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: The demand is ever increasing. New entrepreneurs and small artisans are coming up to make these equipment and implements which are in great demand. As regards the subsidy that we are giving, I will give the details to the hon. Member.

[Translation]

Devdasi System

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*402. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee was constituted by the Government to carry out a study regarding Devdasis in Southern and Western parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of Devdasis, State-wise;

(c) the details of recommendations of the Committee regarding rehabilitation of Devdasis and to emancipate them from exploitation; and

(d) the reaction of the Government to the recommendations?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESHWARI): (a) to (d). A *Statement* is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

- (a) The Central Government constituted a Central Advisory Committee to study the problems of child prostitution, which *inter-alia* also examined the problems of Devdasis;
- (b) While the Committee did not carry out a survey of the number of Devdasis, secondary sources indicate that they are found largely in the States of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. In six districts of Karnataka, where the practice of Devdasis is largely prevalent, it was estimated that in 1991-92 there were approx 21,000 Devdasis. A survey in 1986 had indicated that there were 16,300 Jogins in Andhra Pradesh. But the number of other categories of