

rules and which are the State Governments which have reviewed the State of affairs with the implementation of the Act and what steps are being taken by the Central Government to monitor that.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI:

Sir, the State of Karnataka had framed the rules first. The States of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have to review it.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

Have they reviewed it?

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI:

We have asked them to review it.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

You have asked them to review it but they have not yet reviewed it.

[Translation]

Crop Insurance Scheme

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*403 SHRI LALL BABU RAI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN
PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) when the new Pilot Crop Insurance Scheme has been implemented in the country;

(b) the names of States where it is being implemented at present;

(c) whether the present Scheme will cover only a few farmer and crops by considering Tel...

(d) the steps proposed to benefit all the farmers equally;

(e) whether the Government propose to enhance the amount of Crop Insurance Scheme for the flood-prone, drought-prone and earthquake-prone areas;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Pilot Crop Insurance Scheme (PCIS) has not been implemented in the country;

(b) to (g). Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI LALL BABU RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that question does not arise.

Indian is an agricultural country where 75 to 80 per cent people depend on agriculture. Around 26 crore people put hard labour in agriculture. But farmers in this country always suffer hardships due to floods, famine, earthquakes and other calamities which destroy their crops.

MR. SPEAKER: Reply to the question will not come if you make speech here.

SHRI LALL BABU RAI: I come to the main question. Hon Minister says himself to be a farmer and their well wisher. When the crops are destroyed,

the farmers weep over their plight and are greatly auguiaed.

While framing the Crop Insurance Scheme hon. Minister has made a provision for providing compensation upto Rs. 10,000 This insurance scheme does not cover the crops of tobacco, sugarcane and cotton. I demand for inclusion of these crops also under the crop insurance scheme. The committee has also made recommendations to this effect. The report of the committee also made a recommendation to enhance the amount of compensation under Crop Insurance Scheme. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government increase the present amount of Rs. 10, 000 under Crop Insurance Scheme or not?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as his question is concerned as to whether I am a farmer or not, I would like to say and perhaps he also knows that I am also a farmer.

The thing is that I have given reply to the question you have asked..(Interruption).... I am 6 and a quarter feet tall. The question is that I have given reply to the question asked. He has asked whether the 'Pilot Scheme' has been launched? I would like to tell that it is under consideration. What he was mentioning was an old scheme, and it was introduced quite earlier and it is still going on. I am also trying my best that all the crops should be covered under Crop Insurance Scheme and study is going on in this direction. The shortcomings in the scheme will be removed before implementation. I will give the reply to this question other day.

SHRI LALL BABU RAI: I would like to ask supplementary question on it. Just

now hon. Minister has stated that so far this scheme has not been launched and Government proposes to introduce it. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that by when this scheme will be implemented?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: We will try to launch this scheme at the earliest possible.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question relates to crop insurance. Many times you have accepted in this House that you want to provide the benefits of this scheme to all the farmers. Originally my question pertained to the same but by dubbing this question. I would like to know as to whether the Crop Insurance is being studied on the basis of some villages or tehsils as one unit or on individual basis-it should be clarified.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are some practical problems in it. I have been pondering over this issue since 1972 because I am also a sufferer..(Interruptions) I am studying this scheme seriously as I am also a farmer..(Interruptions)..There is no fun in it..(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: How many years you will take to study this scheme?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: You would have understood it if you were a farmer... (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: Please tell what you have been thinking about it?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I am telling that. There is a big difference between saying one thing and doing it. We are trying to curtail this difference.

Practical problems in this scheme are being solved for its successful implementation. At present farmers, who have taken loan are being considered for this scheme. Now a fullfledge scheme has been formulated and research is going on in this regard. I wish its implementation at the earliest. This scheme has been forwarded to special committee of Cabinet Committee for study and I hope that this will be done at the earliest.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
Will it be possible by the next session?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: We will try our best.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATE-SWARLU: Sir, this is a very important aspect. Hon. Minister has on several occasions promised in this House that this scheme is going to be implemented. Even the hon. Prime Minister during his visit to Andhra Pradesh assured that this scheme would be implemented from Rabi 1993. I would like to ask the Minister when this scheme will be given effect to and whether this is going to form part of the National Agricultural Policy.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, there are two aspects.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know whether it is going to form part of the Agricultural Policy.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: The Agricultural Policy has been laid on the Table of the House and he should study the Policy.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL VERMA (Dhanduka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister is going to implement a new Crop Insurance Scheme on experimental basis whereas crores of rupees are outstanding under the old Crop Insurance Scheme in Gujarat. A delegation of Gujarat farmers have directly contacted you for it but no action was taken. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that by when this outstanding amount will be paid?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question pertains to the policy matter, therefore, it should be asked separately. Although it is being done. This has a lot of problems and several related departments have to give their report regarding the actual loss of crop. Therefore, this new crop insurance scheme is being introduced to remove the shortcomings in it. *(Interruptions)* You ask the question, reply will be given.

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask one question and hope that he will consider it seriously. A large area in India is cultivated along the bank of rivers especially in my parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh Ghaghara river passes through all the five legislative assembly constituencies. Earlier, when there was flood in this river a vast area in this region used to submerge... *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: The question will become very lengthy.

(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI: Sir, I have raised this question time and again but proper reply to it was

not given, therefore, I would like to explain it. At present a dam has been constructed along with the river to save the farmers from flood. Now in rainy season the water logged between the dam and river does not spread. But land of millions of farmers fall between this dam and the river and their crops are ruined every year. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he is planning to launch any scheme for the welfare of such farmers or whether these farmers will be covered under the Crop Insurance Scheme or not? Sir, I request you to ask the hon. Minister to answer my question specifically.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, the question is that in the new crop insurance scheme...

[English]

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that he has been thinking over the situation since 1972. In view of the policy of the Government to withdraw a substantial subsidy on fertiliser, the farmers are suffering a lot.

Will the Minister consider taking up the Pilot Projects immediately? While implementing them, they will come to know what are the deficiencies. The practical experience gained during their implementation will be useful to the farmers. Instead of thinking over the Pilot Projects, is he going to start them from the next year ?

MR. SPEAKER: I think the Minister has already replied to this question.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I have already replied to this question.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS: The natural calamities are causing heavy losses to the cash crops. The compensation given is very meagre. For example, when a coconut tree is lost completely, the compensation given by the Government is just Rs. 40 or Rs. 100, which is very meagre compared to the efforts put in by the farmers and the cost incurred by the farmers.

Can you formulate a policy where crop insurance can be taken by the farmers for their cash crops so that such natural calamities as are unprecedented, as are occurring again and again can be looked after?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: We have increased the amount of compensation from Rs. 25000 to Rs. 45,000.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 404—Shri S.M. Laljan Basha—not present.

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: want to raise this question.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, Mr. Chauhan wants to ask this question, I will allow him.

Assistance to Former Olympians

*404 SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item regarding former Olympians in the "Times of India" dated 29 July, 1994;

(b) whether the Government have made any survey of the status and