

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of deep sorrow and regret that the Hon'ble Minister has in reply to a USQ said that there are financial constraints. If it is so, how this target was achieved? How much total expenditure is incurred on a creche and Anganwadi-cum-creche centre? Whether Government has prepared an expansion scheme in this regard so as to provide maximum benefit to poor families?

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : Yes, Sir. We have prepared a scheme for Creche and Anganwadi-cum-creche centres. We have kept Rs. 18,480 for recurring expenditure and Rs. 4,000 for non-recurring expenditure for creches. We have also kept Rs. 25,200 for giving training to creche teachers to conduct training courses each consisting of 40 creches workers for a duration of 35 days. These centres will be opened through NGOs duly recommended by the State Governments.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently Anganwadi women had staged a demonstration in Delhi... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : Please listen to me. I am giving the answer. This is not from the general funds. This is a fund of Rs. 134 crore which we got as World Bank assistance. Out of this, we have spent Rs. 30 crore for Rashtriya Mahila Kosh and Rs. 19.90 crore are set apart for Creche Fund. The remaining amount was spent for the construction of anganwadi centres, for the construction of godowns, and also for providing utensils, etc. for the centres. We have no shortage of funds. This is not the normal fund. This is the World Bank assistance.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : ....\* (Not recorded)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not going on record.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the Hon'ble Minister for sanctioning 11 Anganwadi-cum-creche centres and 40 creches for Madhya Pradesh. I would like to know the amount sanctioned for running each centre and how the workers appointed for teaching and bringing up the children in these centres have been trained?

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : In these anganwadi centres, the remuneration or the honorarium paid is different. As far as the creche teachers are

\* Not Recorded.

concerned, we have stated that we will give Rs. 800 for two workers per month. This is the target that we have fixed for these creche teachers. As far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned, we have sanctioned 40 Creche Centres from this Creche Fund

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : It is a very difficult job to teach the children and, the teachers are getting a remuneration of Rs. 800 only;

MR. SPEAKER : We have discussed this question several times and once, we discussed it for 45 minutes.

[Translation]

### Fruits' and Vegetables' Production

\*665. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented to boost the production of fruits and vegetables;

(b) the measures taken so far to implement the aforesaid schemes;

(c) whether the Government have any data in regard to area and production of fruits and vegetables during 1993-94;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(e) whether the production of fruits and vegetables in the country is commensurate with their demand;

(f) if not, the facts thereof; and

(g) the details of further plans formulated to increase the production of fruits and vegetables in the country?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (g). A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

### STATEMENT

(a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) All the schemes have been approved and funds released for their implementation.

(c) and (d). The latest information available is for 1992-93, and is placed on the table of the Sabha as per Annexure-I.

(e) and (f). The availability of fruits and vegetables is about 45 and 197 grams per capita per day against the recommended dietary requirement of 120 and 280 grams, respectively.

(g) The programmes currently being implemented to increase the production of fruits and vegetables in the country will be continued and further strengthened during the next plan depending upon the availability of funds.

### STATEMENT

The following schemes are being implemented during the VIII Plan period to boost the production of fruits and vegetables

Name of Scheme	VIII Plan Outlay (Rs. in crores)
1. Integrated development of tropical temperate and arid zone fruits	74.40
2. Production and supply of vegetable seed.	15.00
3. Development of root and tuber crops	2.50
4. Development of mushroom	10.00
5. Use of plastics in agriculture	250.00
6. Development of beekeeping for improving crop productivity	18.87
7. Scheme under National Horticulture Board :	
(i) Integrated project on management of post harvest infrastructure of fruits and vegetables.	47.00
(ii) Development of marketing of horticulture produce through participation in soft loan	50.00
(iii) Establishment of nutritional garden in rural areas	12.50
(iv) Alternate structure for marketing of fruit juices/fruit based beverages	1.35
(v) Development of horticulture in non-traditional area	3.66

### ANNEXURE-I

State-wise area and production of fruits and vegetables during 1992-93

Name of the State	Area in ha.		Production in M.T	
	Fruits		Vegetables	
	Area	Production	Area	Production
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	338512	4766421	148519	1368068
Maharashtra	294014	4313870	201633	3570887
Karnataka	225389	3438046	416958	4662172

	1	2	3	4	5
Bihar		271170	3358983	887309	16200449
Uttar Pradesh (Hills)		176170	461793	79588	687000
Uttar Pradesh (Plains)		305120	2892270	593327	8911199
Tamil Nadu		136908	2369033	53530	959073
Kerala		342000	1931000	202503	2902922
Gujarat		93500	1915000	142000	1556500
Madhya Pradesh		68403	1282264	214049	2046852
West Bengal		133890	1149220	609990	12976880
Assam		98323	1103020	191900	1754355
Orissa		149452	1036000	760660	7745000
Jammu & Kashmir		184621	786986	180300	745000
Punjab		76519	693377	85299	1455300
Tripura		46845	325550	31950	320850
Himachal Pradesh		121247	324855	38680	476000
Meghalaya		25190	232000	25376	237750
Haryana		15303	121390	73581	1029530
Manipur		20705	100000	4663	36470
Rajasthan		20908	94607	59525	302478
Goa		11280	88260	N.A.	N.A.
Arunachal Pradesh		22340	49257	17166	79947
Mizoram		10211	43668	12319	70099
Sikkim		7870	19034	8386	51792
Pondicherry		976	18151	2353	23379
Andaman & Nicobar Islands		1700	16333	3600	14592
Nagaland		5153	9233	8235	66860
Dadra & Nagar Haveli		708	7100	003	002
Delhi		502	4218	47217	735164
Daman and Diu		382	3160	29	290
Chandigarh		125	793	270	5509
Lakshadweep		213	384	240	125
Total India		3205649	32955276	5102675	71006052

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Statement attached to the answer indicates the outlay for the 8th Plan in respect of production of fruits and vegetables. The prices of fruits and vegetables are so prohibitive that they are beyond the purchasing power of the poor and fresh fruits and vegetables are not available to urbanites. Whether Central Government will coordinate the production schemes of States and encourage each State for augmenting production of fruits and vegetables and whether Government has any such scheme?

My second question is about fruits, particularly about oranges. This fruit is available in abundance during the season but adequate cold storage capacity does not exist. Thus, farmers are deprived of fair price. What scheme Government has formulated to increase storage capacity and ensure remunerative prices to farmers?

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is providing assistance to states for the production of fruits and vegetable, as has been indicated in the original answer about the assistance given during 8th Plan. Cooperation of State Governments and agriculture Universities is also being sought to increase fruit and vegetable production.

As regards oranges, we always take initiative, as is clear from increased Plan allocation during Seventh and Eighth Plans. Production has also increased. We are making efforts to increase its production—further.

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to add to what Shri Netamji has said. We want to further increase the production of fruits and vegetables as is evident from the fact that where as Rs. 24 crore were in the 7th Plan for horticulture, it has been raised to one thousand crore of rupees in the 8th Plan, an increase by 42 times. We are anxious to provide nutritious stuff to all and have made provisions for this. This aspect has been neglected so far. We had no arrangements for trading, packaging, forwarding, marketing, transportation and cold storage. We are now making all these arrangements. We are setting up many free-cooling stations and cold-storages. We have provided airconditioned vans to carry fruits.

We have a large population. Still, I feel proud to say that we were second in the world in the field of fruit production so far, first being Brazil, but according to FAO report, we are number one this year and Brazil has been relegated to number two position.

So far as vegetable production is concerned, we are second only to China. We are encouraging farmers. I have long details thereof. If you permit me, I can read it out, but it will take too much time. The way we have provided incentives to farmer is an example. Our policy is to provide seed, subsidy and new-technology to farmers and we propose to involve universities also in our endeavour. Naturally, it will take some time because Agriculture is a sector which has different stages such as sowing seeds, plantation, sprouting, fruition and riping, but once its foundation is laid, the future will be bright. Today, we are exporting grapes, mangoes, chikoo, oranges, and other vegetables which were not exported earlier, the reason being 25 to 30 percent fruits and vegetables used to perish for want of adequate cold storage facility. Now, we have made storage arrangements and are processing them so that they fetch more money.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, several facilities have been provided for fruit production in Maharashtra. Under employment acceleration scheme also, financial assistance is being provided for planting fruit bearing trees. Marketing arrangements have also made there during the last two-three years. Mango and oranges from Maharashtra are in great demand outside the country. May I know whether Government have

formulated any specific scheme for being implemented by Maharashtra State for export of these fruits because this ensures very remunerative price to farmers and some farmers are exporting these items in their own way by forming cooperatives?

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Sir, Maharashtra is far ahead in matter of horticulture and I want to congratulate farmers as well as administration of this state. After introduction of liberalisation policy, several countries have shown interest in this area, and some coordination is on particularly with Israel. This has encouraged Maharashtra a lot.

Maharashtra has made maximum use of drip irrigation system which is very beneficial for horticulture. APIDA, which is a coordinating agency between the Ministry of Commerce and our Ministry, is helping in the area of fruit export, and we have made good progress in this regard and I think, with present liberalisation policy, we can expect further progress in this area.

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Sir, the hon. Agriculture Minister has said that, as at present, we are on top among world nations in matter of fruit production but he might also be aware that our contribution in world market is only 5 percent and if so, where do we stand? We are far behind. We have increased our horticulture area, not productivity and unless productivity increases, farmers are not going to get the benefit of fruit and vegetable production. As one of my hon. friends has said, the basic problem before us is that the farmer is not getting reasonable price of his produce and I have personal knowledge of my area that a vegetable grower some times does not get the price of his produce in Delhi market even equal to the amount he spends on freight for bringing it there. I think this is one area which should be taken up on priority basis by the Agriculture Ministry. I would urge the hon. Minister to introduce a long term loan scheme for fruit growers because whatever fruit, may be ...*(Interruptions)*. I want to know whether the Ministry has any long term loan scheme for farmers? The vegetable producers are not being given loans. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps are being taken to provide loan to fruit and vegetable producers beside providing marketing facilities? ...*(Interruptions)* I want information regarding fruits and vegetables both.

MR. SPEAKER : You are confusing. You ask a straight question whether funds will be provide for fruit and vegetable production?

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : You will not allow me to put supplementaries; my question is very important.

MR. SPEAKER : If you put long question, no answer will be forthcoming.

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : I want to ask only one more question. 50 percent of the fruit produced

in our state is destroyed in orchards before it ripens. I would like to know what measures the Agriculture Ministry is taking on this aspect?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : The hon. Member is right in saying that our contribution in export has been negligible so far but you should appreciate that we have increased plan outlay by 42 times...*(Interruptions)*. It made you laugh and I think it angurs well. I know its marketing problem. The farmer does not get fair price for his produce, the consumer has to pay more; there is the middleman who manoeuvres. Therefore, we are concentrating on marketing facilities and arrangements are being made for it. You will appreciate that.

[English]

Under the marketing of horticulture product, the Board is offering two soft loan schemes for development, infrastructure and marketing under which loan up to Re. 1 crore per beneficiary is given.

[Translation]

You know how much work we have done. We want to offer to both sectors, public and private sectors. Under these schemes, we have opened 83 grading packing centres; 42 cold storages; 43 processing units, 132 retail outlets, provided 147 refrigeration vans, but still it is just a beginning...*(Interruptions)* Rajveer Singh is always very anxious, what can I do?

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : He has given all these details in our answer to an earlier question.

MR. SPEAKER : Cold storages are used for marketing. You should understand this.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I have elaborated the marketing aspect also. We are offering a sum of Re. 1 crore on only 4 percent interest, you would not get such a soft-loan. I have told you about cold-storages, processing...*(Interruptions)* You must appreciate that I do not possess Aladdin's land, but I have the determination of doing things. I am laying the foundation. We also want to give subsidy. I have the details with me but it will take much time to read that out. I shall send details to the hon. Member in writing so that he knows what we are doing.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what the hon. Minister has said...

SHRI RAJENDRA PRASAD SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, I am sorry the hon. Minister has not answered my question about the steps taken to make loan available to farmers.

MR. SPEAKER : Banks have been instructed about advancing loans to farmers. Loans are also given for producing fruits and vegetables.

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Sir, no loan is given for horticulture.

MR. SPEAKER : A very big amount has been allocated for this purpose. You know the amount allocated is not utilised fully.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister makes a jugglery of words. He uses beautiful words such as 'anand dayak' 'Sundertam' but the entire emphasis is on fruits and vegetables export.

MR. SPEAKER : 45 times more funds have been allotted for fruits. It should be a matter of joy.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : Mr. Speaker, the answer given to my question is totally misleading, it can mislead the House. We need not compare ourselves with Brazil. We have to bear in mind our own position. We should not remain in fools paradise that we are number two in fruit production. This is not based on facts. We need 120 grams fruit per day per person to keep healthy but as against it we are producing 45 grams only, i.e. only 40 percent. The minimum per capita requirement of vegetable is 280 grams and we are producing only 197 grams. What measures were taken for their development during the entire plan-period? You are giving funds for coldstorage, for marketing facility, but you have allocated a mere Rs. 15 crore for fruit and vegetable seed production, Rs. 2.50 crore for the development of basic fruits and Rs. 12 crore for rural areas where vegetables and fruits are produced and only Rs. 3.50 crores for the development of traditionally fruit growing areas which should have been given more because most of the fruits are grown in some particular areas. Whether Government have any scheme to ensure fruit and vegetable supply to the people as per their requirement and whether some special scheme is proposed to be formulated for increasing their production? Government is spending on building coldstorages, marketing, but what is being done for their development?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Sir, Chandra Jeetji is my elder brother. I cannot say anything. It needs comprehension. What I am stating is true. Without marketing facility everything will go wrong. The farmer will stop production if he fails to get good price. We provided assistance for wheat, for paddy, oilseeds and the farmers filled our godawns. If we fail to give money to them, they will stop producing. I am doing all this for the farmer providing subsidy to him. Entire money is being given for increasing production. All efforts are being made to augment production. We shall export only when we have surplus. We are exporting only the surplus. We have a population of 92 crore while Brazil is a small nation. We have to strike a balance between income and expenditure. We have to allocate more for this. We are developing infrastructure, it is not misleading, it is not a dream, and even if it is a dream we are trying our best to realise this dream; the farmer should get good return and you nutritious product. We are spending on Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Research

Stations and all that. They are meant for farmers. The farmers will produce more only when they get more for his produce.

SMT. SHEELA GAUTAM : Sir, mango is the king of fruits and its crop is extremely good but insecticides, fertilisers etc. are not available in good quantity and quality. What steps is he taking to make available all these things?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Sir, this pertains to State Government and we will see what we can do.

SMT. SHEELA GAUTAM : Sir, insecticides and fertilisers are not available. The fruit is infested by insects. What is the Government doing in this regard?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. This does not arise out of the question.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 25 percent of the fruit and vegetable production gets perished. Government is making efforts to provide cold storage and processing facilities. But processed fruits are not tested in India as Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav has said, there is deficiency in nutrient value. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether Government is making efforts to see that Agriculture Ministry processes fruits involving Public Distribution System in it?

MR. SPEAKER : What will they do? Whether the marketing committee has any fruit distribution programme?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : We are setting up marketing centres for this purpose.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Mr. Speaker, North Bihar which is a low lying area is the only 'Makhana' (parched lotus seeds) producing area in the country, even in the entire world. It grows in water and is exported throughout the world. I had tried modernisation and extension of it. I tried it in Hyderabad. If he desires I can send experts from my area but they are illiterate. I want it should be grown wherever irrigation water is available. I tried it in Kanpur also....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please come to the question now.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : I am coming to that. I tried it in Kanpur and Ludhiana.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not the question of 'I' You put questions.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : I am putting question. It has a great nutrient value and it does not require cold storage. Whether he will try its production in various

parts of the country and also help increase its production in North Bihar because the people of the area are poor and backward?

Sir, all the trees except old ones have been planted by me at my residence. I had made a complaint that the roots of mango trees are infested by insects.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Jha, I will disallow your question if you do not come to the point.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : May I know whether insecticide was not administered in the roots of those trees? Because of the nonavailability of the same, two big mango trees die. Whether the Hon. Minister will look into it?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : We have Research Institutes and also Bihar University there. I shall write to them and you approach them. You may also approach Bihar State Government.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : It is the question of resources.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : The Research Institutes have been set up there to see all this. They promote region-wise production of those things which can be grown, keeping in view the climatic conditions and which can give more income. All these aspects are looked after by the Research Institutes.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Sir, Hyderabad is not in Bihar and you will have to look into this.

[English]

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR (Nasik) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that the Government is giving a lot of subsidy for the pre-cooling units and cold storage facilities and all other things. But to improve the yield per hectare, there has to be a research. Three years ago, hon. Agriculture Minister had declared three National Research Centres for Maharashtra viz. (1) National Research Centre in Grapes in Pune, (2) National Research Centre in Onions and Garlics, Nasik and (3) National Research Centre in Oranges, Nagpur.

Three years have passed but the activity has not yet started...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing this question.

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Mr. Speaker, I am myself a farmer. The Hon. Minister has said that 4 percent subsidy as well as loans are being given to farmers.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not meant for everything. It is meant only for cold storage.

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : I am talking of farmers. We Plant Lybrid Fruit trees which take 20-24 months to bear fruit and during this period of 24 months farmer's land remains untilled. What will the farmer do during these 24 months? He is not getting subsidy, he is not getting loan. This is the reason, farmers avoid plantation of fruit bearing trees. Whether any incentive scheme has been formulated to encourage farmers to grow fruits and vegetables? Last year, he had promised subsidy in fertilisers but the same has not forthcome till date.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This has already been replied to. But I have no objection if the Minister wants to reply again.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : As far as subsidy is concerned we provide grant upto Rs. 20,000 for developing a nursery, upto Rs. 10 lakhs for pisciculture, upto Rs. 1000 for farmers' training, upto Rs. 660 thousand per hectare for area expansion and Rs. 1200 to Rs. 3000 per hectare for improving productivity. All these efforts are intended to increase production and it will take time to take a proper shape. Same is the objective of Krishi Vigyan Kendras. They impart education, provide technology and remove the difference between theory and practical problems.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You should understand that the money which is allotted is not being used.

[Translation]

### Foodgrains Stock

\*666. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the existing rules for keeping maximum stocks of foodgrains for storage in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India;

(b) whether the offtake of foodgrains through the Public Distribution System has declined as well as the prices of foodgrains have registered an increase due to the retention of maximum foodgrain stocks by the Corporation;

(c) whether the Food Corporation of India has been finding it difficult to handle these stocks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the effective measure taken by the Government in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

### STATEMENT

(a) There are no rules/norms prescribing the maximum levels of stocks to be maintained in the Central pool of foodgrains operated by the FCI. The existing Government policy, at present, provides for the maintenance of the minimum buffer stocks at different times of the year.

(b) The allocations of wheat and rice to the States/UTs from the Central Pool and the actual offtake in the last two years was as under :

	(in lakh tonnes)			
	Wheat		Rice	
	A	O	A	O
1993-94	95.57	58.64	124.15	88.85
1994-95	108.09	48.29	133.16	79.75

A - Allocation

O - Offtake

Prices of wheat and rice have registered only a marginal increase of 2.2 per cent and 8.8 percent respectively on 6th May, 1995 as compared with that as on 6.5.1994. The decline in offtake against the Central allocations is attributed to the following :

- (i) Easy availability of wheat and rice in the open market because of good harvests in three consecutive years.
- (ii) Reasonable open market price of wheat and rice as compared with PDS prices.
- (iii) Comfortable stocks with the farmers and traders.

(c) and (d). The stock of wheat and rice held in the Central Pool as on 1.4.1995 was 26.8 million tonnes against the buffer norms of 14.5 million tonnes. The total storage capacity of FCI is of the order of 27.4 million tonnes. Even though the stocks levels are quite comfortable, it is not correct to say that the FCI is finding it difficult to handle these stocks.

Among the important steps taken by Government and the FCI are enhancing storage capacity; open sale of wheat and rice and the Government permission to export upto a ceiling of 4.5 million tonnes. Besides, special schemes have been formulated for channelising foodgrains to the targetted groups.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir in my question, I had asked for the reasons for 50 percent decline in the off take of wheat and rice against the Central allocation and the Government in its answer has said that their has been a very good harvest during the last three years and the farmers have comfortable stocks with them and the open market price of wheat and rice favourably compares with fair price. If that is