

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, August 22, 1995, Sravana 31, 1917 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Area Under Pulses/Oilseeds

*261. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA :

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area under Pulses and Oilseeds cultivation at present, separately, State-wise ;

(b) whether the area under cultivation of Pulses and Oilseeds has decreased constantly during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof State-wise and the reasons therefor ; and

(d) the specific steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the area under cultivation of these crops ?

[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) Annexure is enclosed.

(b) and (c). The area under pulses has increased from 224 lakh hectares in 1992-93 to 247 lakh hectares in 1994-95. While in case of oilseeds the area has increased from 252 lakh hectares in 1992-93 to 269 lakh hectares in 1994-95.

(d) To increase the area and production of Pulses and Oilseeds the Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Project and Oilseeds Production Programme are being implemented in the country.

Annexure

*Area Under Pulses and Oil Seeds
During 1994-95*

Area : '000 ha.

	State	AREA	
		Pulses	Oilseeds
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1500	3065
2.	Assam	131	327
3.	Bihar	1064	299
4.	Gujarat	946	3167
5.	Haryana	518	665
6.	Himachal Pradesh	58	58
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	42	73
8.	Karnataka	1611	2583
9.	Kerala	29	19
10.	Madhya Pradesh	4826	4813
11.	Maharashtra	3613	2612
12.	Orissa	2166	991
13.	Punjab	108	208
14.	Rajasthan	3560	3642
15.	Tamil Nadu	1085	1553
16.	Uttar Pradesh	3072	2080
17.	West Bengal	325	646
	Others	59	78
	ALL INDIA	24733	26899

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my original question was that there is a constant decrease in the area under the cultivation of pulses and oilseeds at present but according to the statement laid down by the hon. Minister on the table of the House the area of 224 lakh hectares under the cultivation of pulses and oilseeds in 1992-93 has

increased to 269 lakh hectares in 1994-95. There is total increase of 17 lakh hectare. in the area of pulses and oilseeds cultivation. I can not understand why the prices of the pulses which were Rs. 19-20 per kg. last year have shot up to Rs. 35 now despite increase in area under pulses and oilseeds cultivation by 17 lakh hectare? We are also importing the edible oils. I would like to quote the official figures. According to the report of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperatives the production of Kharif crops which was 465 Kg. per hectare in 1992-93 has decreased to 476 kg. per hectare in 1993-94. This confounds my confusion about the hon. Minister's statement. Likewise, I can give more figures.

MR. SPEAKER : No figures, please. Come to the question directly.

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Hence, I would like to quote the report of his department here which says that there is a constant decrease in the production of pulses and oilseeds. On the other hand, the hon. Minister says that in order to increase the production of pulses and oil seeds
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your question.

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : That is what I am doing, Sir, they have set up the Pulse Development Board for this purpose. I fail to understand what that Pulse Development Board is doing ?

[English]

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

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister if there has been a 17 lakh hectare increase in the area of production of pulses and oilseeds then, what is the reason for price rise of these commodities? The prices of all pulses have increased. The poor man is the worst sufferer. The prices of pulses that ranged between Rs. 19-20 earlier have shot up to Rs. 35 per kg. I would like the hon. Minister to furnish figures of increase in production as a result of 17 lakh hectare increase in area of cultivation.

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, we have already answered it in the main question that the area as well as the production of pulses and oilseeds have been steadily increasing. We do agree that there have been fluctuations from year to year. The fluctuations in area have been between 21 and 25 million hectares and production between 10 and 15 million tonnes in the case of pulses.

These fluctuations are due to various causes. One of the problems with the pulses is that because of the higher remuneration being paid to the food crops, such as, wheat and rice, now more farmers find it advantageous to cultivate those crops and pulses which are more sensitive.

They are more sensitive depending on rainfall and various doubtful situations in the field of agriculture. This is one reason. We have launched the oilseeds development programme and pulses development programme. I do not want to go into the details of the programmes. These are high priority areas and various inputs regarding pulses are being given to farmers to increase the production.

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has vaguely replied about the fluctuation. One can understand that unpredictable Monsoon may be a reason but the hon. Minister stated that the farmer sows remunerative crops in view of the support prices announced for different crops. The Government has fixed the support price of wheat at Rs. 360 per quintal and its market rate is Rs. 400 per quintal and yet, the farmer sows wheat. So, his statement is self-contradictory.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether it is not a fact that Madhya Pradesh is called as Soya Pradesh because it tops in Soyabean production in India. Is the hon. Minister aware that the spray of pesticides and insecticides is necessary for the crops of Soyabean and other oilseeds and pulses and in case it is not done, the crop is reduced to half of its yield? Has it come to the notice of the hon. Minister that the subsidy given by the Government of India for this crop has been withdrawn because there are

50,53,000 small farmers in Madhya Pradesh all of whom cultivate Soyabean and the withdrawal of the subsidy of Rs. 5-6 crore has affected the crops of Soyabean, pulses and oilseeds in Madhya Pradesh?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India would reconsider to give subsidy for Soyabean throughout the country which was given to Madhya Pradesh and later withdrawn? If so, by when; and if not, the reasons therefor.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Member that so far as figures are concerned, the production has not decreased but increased. This year production is likely to be reached to 15 lakh tonnes. Earlier we produced 10.5 to 11 lakh tonnes of pulses but there is an increase in demand and production has not increased accordingly. We are feeling short of pulses only.

So far as oilseeds are concerned, we have achieved a production of 12.5 to 22.5 million tonnes which almost meet our demand. We talk of OGL only to prevent the price rise that may be propelled by the profiteers. That is why we are importing it today. We have enough production of oil to meet our average demand.

In respect of Soyabean, he is very much right. There has been and will be a large scale production of Soyabean in Madhya Pradesh which has touched 47 lakh tonnes. Nothing further is needed to be done in this regard. We are making every effort to augment its production. We are supplying quality seeds and technology for the purpose. We are doing everything.

We are feeling the shortage of pulses because we are thinking on the lines of producing new seeds. All these are rainfed crops.

These crops cannot be grown in sufficient quantity resorting to irrigated land only. These are based on rains also. Therefore, due to being based on rains, production of pulses remains less than other crops.

As has been pointed out by the hon. Member about fixing up the support price of wheat by the Government at a higher or a lower rate, I would like to state that had the Government not fixed the support price of wheat at Rs. 360 per quintal and purchased wheat at the time of harvesting, the farmers would have been compelled to sell it at the rate of Rs. 250 per quintal. Support price is fixed so that farmers are not compelled to sell their crop at a loss. They should

earn profit and if they get less price in the open market then they should sell it to the Government and if they get more price for their crop in the open market then they should sell it there. The Government do not compel farmers to sell their produce to it only. Therefore, the hon. Member need not be worried in this regard because the Government will certainly do a thing which is in the interest of the farmers.

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have put a specific question to the hon. Minister. Grants of Rs. 5 to 6 crores were being given to Madhya Pradesh Government every year for weeding out dirt from the fields and for spraying of insecticides. As a result of that the production of Soyabean and oilseeds generally grown in rainy season is doubled. Why was it stopped in 1994-95?

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed you to speak. Please ask in short..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Will the Government release that grant later?

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : I would like to ask as to why has the Government stopped the grant. Secondly, the pulse which was earlier being sold at Rs. 21 per kg. is now being sold at Rs. 35 per kg. What the Government is doing to check the prices of pulses?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : The Government has never imported pulses more than one million tonnes. This time(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: What about the grants?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : This time 6 million tonnes of pulses have been imported(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Is the Government going to release the grants this time which were being given earlier?

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: I was asking about the grants that were given in 1994 (Interruptions)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I am also talking of grants. Please listen to me. Any grant is given only after consulting the Planning Commission. Grants are given for these items which are planned and are being given today also but it is not given to those items which are not included in the planning(Interruptions)

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir.....(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on record.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1952, per capita consumption of pulse was 75 grams which has been reduced to 35 grams in 1995. Of course, the hon. Minister can say that this situation has been created due to increase in population. At present, the support price of pulse being given to the farmers is Rs. 800 per quintal, whereas its price in the open market is Rs. 25 to 35 per kg. The difference of profit of Rs. 16 per kg. should be given to the farmers, but it is not been given. Therefore, this is also one of the reasons following which the production of pulses has gone down. The first part of my question is whether the hon. Minister is going to play a decisive role to increase the support price?

MR. SPEAKER : He has given reply to this question just now. You put another question.

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI : My second question is this. I hail from hilly areas where pulses are grown abundantly but there is no market available for farmers to sell their produce. Does the Government propose to open purchase centres in the remote hilly areas to purchase pulses from the farmers?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Arrangements for opening such centres are made by Food Corporation of India and their branches are available everywhere.

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI: There is no such branch in hilly areas. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to where it is available there.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : The hon. Member should listen to my reply. If it is not there he should talk to the FCI authorities. We will also talk to them. They will make special arrangements for it.

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI : I am saying that there is no such branch in the entire hilly area.

[English]

SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : Sir, in the statement, it has been said that there has been an increase in the areas in hectares, under pulses and oilseeds from 1992-93 to 1994-95.

But I would like to say that due to shortage of rain in some parts of the country. There the farmers had to sow the crop again as it could not come up earlier. Specially, in Maharashtra re-sowing was done because of the shortage of rain.

Since even the hectare wise increase in the area is there, I would like to know whether the Government is thinking that the production of pulses and oilseeds will also increase.

What I would like to say is that in Maharashtra re-sowing of seed, especially the pulses, was done. You said, in Madhya Pradesh, a bumper crop of Soyabean will come. As the re-sowing was done in Maharashtra, I would like to know whether the Government have any idea of the hectare wise increase in the area under pulses. In how many hectares re-sowing has been done and what is the ultimate effect of this re-sowing? I feel that the crop production would increase this way. So, I want to know whether the Government have any idea of this?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I can get the figures from the State Government.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, pulses and oilseeds require less water. Where irrigation facilities are increasing, the production of pulses and oilseeds is decreasing day by day. Earlier, gram was being consumed by the poor and wheat by the rich because gram and wheat used to be grown simultaneously. At that time, water was required for the production of wheat but the high yielding variety which has been introduced now requires more water. Due to this gram is not being produced in these areas. Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government would make efforts or introduce any scheme to increase the production of pulses and oilseeds in the areas where there is scarcity of water or where crops can be produced with less water?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : He is right. The Government wants to introduce some new variety of seeds for those areas so that production could be increased in spite of less water. We have developed a new seed of Arhar having two varieties i.e. hybrid and dwarf. These varieties will take less time to ripe and produce good quality. It is sure that the Government wants to produce only these varieties in those areas where less water is available.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : What is being done in the areas where irrigation facility is not available?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I am talking about those areas only.

[English]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Sir, it is a very good news that the area under cultivation for Pulses and Oilseeds has now increased. In the statement it is stated that :

"To increase the area and production of Pulses and Oilseeds the Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Project and Oilseeds Production Programmes are being implemented in the country."

May I know from the Minister what are those schemes; and who are the implementing agencies at the State level. This information would help us in knowing the actual implementing agencies and we could accordingly tell the farmers to approach the Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Project and Oilseeds Production Programmes.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, we have a National Pulses Development Project and the Oilseeds Production Programme. These are centrally sponsored schemes. Seventy five per cent of the expenditure is met by the Central Government and 25 per cent by the State Government. These schemes are implemented through the State Agricultural Departments.

The National Pulses Development Programme has been implemented in 25 States and Union Territories covering 224 districts. The Oilseeds Production Programme has been implemented in 23 States covering 337 districts.

The various components of the programmes are, giving inputs, farm extension, various subsidies and so on. I have got the whole list of that.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any arrangements have been made to develop new varieties of pulses and oilseeds to be produced in the unirrigated areas?(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : He has just told this in reply to the question asked by Shri Rajveer Singhji.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : No, no. The variety which has been mentioned in his statement develops certain germs. Has the Government formulated any scheme to manufacture any insecticide to protect the crops?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is disallowed.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : The reply given by the hon. Minister consists of State-wise figures. The production of pulses and oilseeds in Bihar has been shown as 1064 and 299 respectively. Bihar is the only state where considerable land is available for producing pulses and oilseeds but farmers are not given adequate facilities due to lack of proper coordination between the State and Central Government. As a result thereof, their production is suffering till date.

If the State Government and the Central Government work jointly to achieve the production target, Bihar can make the nation self-sufficient in pulses and oil seeds. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has any special schemes for such a good State, to achieve increased production through proper coordination.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : We are always willing to cooperate to increase production. And I have great expectations from Bihar. If the hon. Member is willing and is ready to cooperate with us, we can attain greater heights in production.

[English]

SHRI LAETA UMBREY : Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister seems to be incomplete. The question asked was for the total area under pulses and oilseeds among all the States, but figures for only 17 States have been given here. May be the area under pulses and oilseeds in some States is less but figures of all the States should have been given. Take for example my State of Arunachal Pradesh. I know very well that in my hometown, which the Agriculture Minister visited, we produce oil seeds in large quantities. Pulses, of course, are produced in small quantities so the figures that have been given in the answer, I think, are incomplete. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is going to give the high yielding varieties of seeds with all the infrastructural facilities to the North-Eastern States where there is fertile land, good climate and availability of water.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come out with the question quickly. We have taken more than 20 minutes for one question.

SHRI LAETA UMBREY: Sir, I am putting the question only. I would like to know whether hon. Minister is going to come out with a programme to help encourage production of oilseeds and pulses in the North-Eastern States.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, the contribution of the North-Eastern States in this regard is very little and so they have been clubbed with other States for statistical purposes. But every State is entitled to its benefits. We will certainly help them.

Ex-Factory Sugar Price

[Translation]

*262. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) Whether ex-factory price of Sugar is fixed by the Government from time to time ;

(b) if so, the price fixed during 1992-93 to July, 1995 ;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal

to revise these prices ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) whether the increased amount is likely to be recovered from poor public of the country through Public Distribution System, and

(f) if so, the extent of increase in prices to be born by the consumer as a result thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The price statement is at Annexure-I.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise

(e) and (f). The retail issue price of levy sugar was fixed at 9.05 per kg. from 1.2.94, and is continuing for the present. Hence, the question does not arise.

STATEMENT

The Ex-Factory Prices for Average Grade of Sugar for the Pricing Zones for the Year 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 were as Follows

S.No.	ZONES	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1993-94	1994-95
		for SMP Rs. 26P/Q	for SMP Rs. 31P/Q	for SMP Rs.34.5/Qtl (Notified on 17.4.94)	for SMP Rs. 34.5/Qtl. (as revised on 16.9.94)	for SMP Rs. 39.1/Qtl. (as notified on 27.5.95)
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1.	Punjab	586.77	683.99	732.46	696.35	773.90
2.	Haryana	571.08	674.05	725.26	719.52	762.56
3.	Rajasthan	702.29	790.52	900.13	849.98	903.16
4.	West U.P.	611.92	709.36	759.79	734.67	796.80
5.	Central U.P.	605.83	695.07	756.45	737.04	795.62
6.	East U.P.	629.68	728.34	789.98	755.78	846.30
7.	North Bihar	635.77	704.43	794.96	767.54	840.92
8.	South Bihar	733.12	810.22	887.97	862.65	942.25
9.	Gujarat (South)	562.34	639.78	698.87	649.55	746.68
10.	Saurashtra	580.98	658.81	760.26	667.33	778.05
11.	Madhya Pradesh	648.39	717.34	801.49	716.21	812.70