

change in the Industrial Policy, anybody is free to set up the plant.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, it is a fact that it was not included in any Plan. It was thought that it should be a public sector undertaking. Not only this, there is also another plant in Orissa.

In 1991, a proposal was made to the Cabinet. The Cabinet decided that in view of the constraint of funds, no public sector steel plant will be sponsored in any part of the country but the Government will give all necessary help, if the concerned State Governments start joint sector companies.

As per this new proposal, the ESSAR Group will be there. Meanwhile, there will also be a change in Policy. But as per this Policy, it is up to the State Government to take necessary action ... (Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have asked whether it was originally included in the Plan proposal or not.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I have told you that it was included in the Plan proposal but adequate allocation was not made. So, it was not taken up.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the total number of applications received for setting up these Plants in the joint sector? Out of this, the Karnataka Government have preferred ESSAR Group to set up these plants in the joint sector. May I know whether the technology which has been adopted by the ESSAR Group, that is the Chinese technology, has been approved by the technical experts of the Government of India?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, it is a fact that the technology which is thought of for this particular Plant, is based on Chinese technology. Our Ministry has supported it. Now, it is up to them to take necessary action.

SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that in Andhra Pradesh, in Kakinada, the ESSAR Group has already acquired 600 acres of land and paid the amount... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No. Not like that.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Will the Minister take this fact into consideration that when the former Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi laid the foundation stone of this Steel Plant, it was an agreed demand on behalf of the people of Karnataka that after having given full consideration that a new Steel Plant has to come in that part of the country and also taking into account the large scale availability of iron-ore in Karnataka. Now the Minister is saying that if the State Governments take initiatives by way of joint sector Steel Plants, they will provide all help.

Will the Minister take into consideration that if joint sector steel plant comes up, the Government of India will also make its financial contribution for that plant? It should not only be limited to just giving clearance for foreign exchange but will the Government of India consider— if they are not going to have any Steel Plant in the public sector and if they have taken a policy decision— them to become the partners in the joint sector steel plants?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: There is no such proposal received from the Karnataka Government and I do not think there is any possibility regarding this also.

Crops Covered Under Crop Insurance Scheme

*513. PROF. UMMA REDDY
VENKATESWARLU:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to State:

(a) the Crops covered under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to extend the Crop Insurance Scheme to all the Crops in different States; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha

(b) and (c) Presently, wheat, paddy,

millets, oilseeds and pulses are covered under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS). There is no proposal to extend the CCIS to all the crops in different states. However, demands have been made in the past for including more crops under the CCIS. These demands are in respect of fruit & horticulture crops, cotton, coconut,

sugarcane, betal leaves, jute and some vegetable crops. Since the Central and State Governments are incurring heavy losses in running the Scheme and in view of operational difficulties such as multipicking, absence of reliable yield data, it has not been found feasible to include other crops under the CCIS for the Present.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of States/U.Ts.	Name of the crops covered
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Paddy, Jowar, Bja, Maize, Ragi, Korra, Red Gram, Black Gram, Green Gram, Horse Gram, Groundnut, Castor and Gingelly.
2.	Assam	Winter Paddy, Autumn Paddy, Rape & Mustard, Wheat, Summer Paddy, Matikalai.
3.	Bihar	Paddy, Maize, Gram, Masoor, Red gram, Rape & Mustard and Wheat.
4.	Goa	Paddy, Ragi and Groundnut.
5.	Gujarat	Paddy, Bajra, Maize, Red Gram, Groundnut, Wheat, Gram and Rape & Mustard.
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Paddy, Maize and Wheat.
7.	Karnataka	Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Red gram, Groundnut, Sunflower, Wheat, Gram, Safflower.
8.	Kerala	Paddy.
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Red gram, Groundnut, Sesamum, Soyabean, Kodakodki, Wheat, Gram, Rape & Mustard and Linseed.
10.	Maharashtra	Paddy, Jowar, Bajra Red Gram, Groundnut, Sesamum, Sunflower, Niger, Wheat, Gram, Safflower and Linseed.
11.	Manipur	Paddy.
12.	Meghalaya	Sali Paddy, Ahu Paddy, and Rape & Mustard.
13.	Orissa	Paddy and Groundnut
14.	Rajasthan	Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Wheat, Gram, Rapeseed and Mustard.
15.	Tamil Nadu	Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Ragi, Groundnut, Sesamum and Sunflower.
16.	Tripura	Aman Paddy, Aush Paddy and Boro Paddy.
17.	Uttar Pradesh	Paddy, Maize, Bajra, Urad, Groundnut, Soyabean, Wheat, Gram, Peas Masoor, Rape Mustard and Til.
18.	West Bengal	Aman, Paddy, Boro Paddy, Wheat, Mustard, Linseed, Gram, Red gram and Green gram.
19.	Jammu & Kashmir	Paddy, Wheat, Rape and Maize.
20.	A & N Islands	Paddy.
21.	Delhi	Paddy, Bajra, Wheat and Mustard.
22.	Pondicherry	Paddy.

PROF. UMMA REDDY VENKATESHWARLU: Under the comprehensive crops Insurance Scheme only certain food crops, as mentioned by the hon. Minister, have been included. The most valuable crops like cotton, tobacco, chilli, sugarcane, turmeric and several other crops have not been covered particularly those crops which are highly investment intensive crops. The farming community particularly in coastal Andhra has been suffering losses

year after year particularly during floods, cyclone, etc.

MR. SPEAKER: Will that be included?

PROF. UMMA REDDY VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Government consider bringing all these cash crops at least — I am not asking for all the crops — which I have already

mentioned above under the comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme keeping in view the heavy losses suffered by the farming community in coastal Andhra during the cyclones of 1969, 1977, 1983, 1986 and 1990 and also the suicide committed by the cotton farmers earlier.

A Committee had been set up a year ago for inclusion of these crops. Has it submitted its recommendations; if so, what are the salient features of the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): If you have studied the answer, you will find that the Crop Insurance Scheme was envisaged in 1987 and we specified there and then that it will be a sort of an experimental scheme for the time being; and specified crops were put under this scheme.

As far as other crops are concerned, I must draw your attention to this that whosoever insures his crop, he is bound to come under that scheme if he wants to opt for it; and the maximum amount for that scheme is only Rs. 10,000. But for other crops, as we have already explained in the answer, it has not been found possible to determine how to operate it on a very feasible basis. The whole problem is that there has been no fixed policy or a scheme under which we can guarantee and protect the farmers. I myself have been engaged in this exercise since 1973 to find a way out, but, so far nothing tangible has come out. The minimum amount for this scheme was Rs. 150; now it has been brought down to Rs. 100. The maximum amount is Rs. 10,000. The actual working result has been that Rs. 94 crores have been received as premium and the claims made are around Rs. 700 crores. It is only for loanee farmers. If we were to extend it to other crops and other areas, then we have to find a way out; and I think I will have to ask for the opinions of the hon. Members also how to make it feasible. The question is: can the farmers be able to pay that minimum premium or not? This is a question which has to be viewed in that context.

I have also studied and tried to study from all over the world also whether any scheme which is workable or is existing

as on today is there or not; to my knowledge, it is not there. So, I will have to re-examine the whole thing. I would like to have the cooperation of all the Members how to make it feasible, because farmers will not be able to pay that much of premium which will make it feasible. Otherwise, all the insurance companies are viable. This is the only scheme which is unviable. So, that is the problem.

PROF. UMMA REDDY VENKATESHWARLU: If I am not going in for a correction in the statement that has been made by the hon. Minister, I think the scheme had come into existence right from 1985 onwards and not 1987. The hon. Minister has very rightly pointed out that this scheme has turned out to be a credit insurance scheme rather than a crop insurance scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: There are many who want to ask questions on this. So, please let there be a pointed question.

PROF. UMMA REDDY VENKATESHWARLU: It has become a credit insurance scheme, rather than a crop insurance scheme. The scheme is being extended to those who are availing institutional finance from the credit institutions. For all the farmers who want to pay their premium and insure their crops, the insurance agencies are not coming forward to accept. Will the hon. Minister extend this facility to all the farmers, even at least for those crops which are not covered to avail this particular scheme? And the second part of the scheme is.....

MR. SPEAKER: Do not go to the scheme. Please come out with the question.

PROF. UMMA REDDY VENKATESHWARLU: This scheme is being operated when the losses are suffered over vast areas, whether it is a tahsil or a Samiti. But the losses are being suffered only in certain pockets, that is, the villages. Can this computation of the losses be allowed only keeping the village as a unit but not a wider area?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: The problem

is the same. I wish that I could extend the scheme to all the farmers. But the only question is the viability. That is the crux of the problem. And I would like to have the opinion of all the Members here, how to operate it and how to determine the losses, how much input is to be there, how much should be there for pest control and plant protection, how much for watering, how much yield is expected and also, how to determine what sort of indemnity bond is to be there and so on. That is the problem. It has not been solved to my satisfaction, nor to anybody's satisfaction. We have to evolve something which we can hold to and benefit the farmers. If I put it that we insure it, from the Government's side, that is not possible. Already there are Rs. 700 crores involved in it. I will put it to all. There have been bunglings and some complaints are there about the assessment problem. How do we assess it? We pick cotton three times or four times and after three times you can do it. That is what they do. That is the problem we have to sit together and find a viable via media, a scheme which can help and be of some benefit to the farmers. That is what we want.

PROF. UMMA-REDDY VENKATESH-WARLU: My question has not been answered.

MR. SPEAKER: He has said that it is not feasible to have a village only for computation.

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: One of the best cotton growing countries is India but our farmers are not getting competent rates. Sometimes they are susceptible to failures of crops which result in losses, as also some crop-diseases, etc. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether there is any proposal with the Government to form a cooperation to come to the rescue of the farmers like the Coffee Board so that some export-oriented crops can be grown and which would assist the farmers? Is there any such proposal?

MR. SPEAKER: This is about crop insurance scheme.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: We would

always like to encourage exports and help the farmers. The Cotton Corporation of India is there for it.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Paddy, bajra, maize, groundnut and grams come under the CCIS in Gujarat. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Gujarat Government has sent any demand for including more crops such as cotton under the scheme?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: The hon. Member must see that I have already replied that question. It is the same thing. It applies to cotton also.

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you want that information and take time?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: We have to take another look, how to make it workable. That is the problem.

[Translation]

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the agriculturists are being provided loan for fertilisers and seeds through co-operatives. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the loan provided for the purchase of fertilisers and seeds is given from the premium of Crop Insurance Scheme. Can crop insurance be provided on a large scale. The Government may consider this point.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Premium is not so much. It is realised at the rate of Re 1/- per cent out of which fifty per cent is contributed by the farmer and 50% by us.

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: If it is feasible, why not to implement it? In Bihar State, the loan is realised by deducting from the premium and people join the Crop Insurance Scheme.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: It is not feasible that is why the whole problem is there.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has referred about the losses. Is it not a fact that the losses are due to the misuse of the scheme in some northern States? Is it also not a fact that the present comprehensive insurance scheme covers only standing crops?

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that in Krishna District along seashore, nearly 15,000 acres of paddy harvested and stocked were literally washed away by the tidal waters during May 1990 cyclone. I want to know whether the Government will bring necessary changes in the comprehensive scheme so that the harvested crop is also covered and the interest of the farmer is protected....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This question has already been answered. The Minister gave a very comprehensive answer to this.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, that is different.

MR. SPEAKER: It covered that also. Okay, come out with a question.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, let the Minister say so.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, I have already replied to this. It is not feasible and it is not workable so far... (Interruptions)

[Translations]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: I would like to know from the hon. Agriculture Minister, it is a matter of pleasure that he is associated with agriculture....

MR. SPEAKER: Time is limited, if you want a reply please ask the question, a long introduction is not required.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: I am asking the question. Crop Insurance Scheme is not an ordinary task. How it will be invested, what will be the returns, are the points to be considered. Fortunately, the Agriculture Minister is himself an agriculturist. Will the government constitute a committee so that the Insurance Scheme is rightly applied to agriculturists which can give a right opinion after proper study which can be helpful in the long run?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I am inviting suggestions and I am very much concerned about finding any such source which may be helpful in this so that the scheme runs smoothly. No such resource or scheme has come our way till today. You may suggest.

SHRI RATILAL VARMA: In Gujarat, the balance is outstanding under Crop

Insurance Scheme, with the result they are losing faith on Crop Insurance Scheme. By what time the remaining balance would be paid?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: The claims are mostly from Gujarat, some are disputed and are resolved. It is under process.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Sir, what I want to know from the hon. Minister is this. Particularly, the crop insurance scheme is only applicable when a farmer is taking loan from the bank. In case other farmers, who are in the same block, are not taking loan... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has already replied to this questions.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

People of Indian origin in Fiji

*509. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons of Indian origin in Fiji who have left that country so far;

(b) the number of them who have since settled in various countries, country-wise; and

(c) the number of persons of Indian origin who are still living in Fiji?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) The number of persons of Indian origin estimated to have left Fiji after the coups in 1987 is approx. 20,000.

(b) No precise figures are available. However, there are sizeable migrant communities of Fijians of Indian origin in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United Kingdom and United States of America.

(c) According to information published by the Fiji Bureau of Statistics in December, 1989, approx. 3,37,557 persons of Indian origin were living in Fiji.