

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, November 28, 1991/
Agrahaya na 7, 1913 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Funds For Plantation of fruit Bearing Trees

*102 SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) the funds earmarked by the Union
Government for plantation of fruit bearing
trees in the rural areas of the country during

1990-91 and 1991-92; and

(b) the amount actually released to
each State/Union Territory during the above
period?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) The
Government of India are implementing two
schemes for the development of fruit trees:

- i) Establishment of nutritional
gardens in rural areas;
- ii) Central Sector Scheme on
integrated development of
Tropical and Arid Zone fruits.

The funds earmarked under these two
schemes during 1990-91 and 1991-92 are
Rs. 132.41 lakhs and Rs. 369.34 lakhs
respectively.

(b) Statement I and II showing statewide
funds released during 1990-91 and allocation
of funds during 1991-92 is laid on the Table
of the Sabha.

STATEMENT- I

Statewise release of funds during 1990-91 for Development of fruit Trees in various
schemes of Central Government

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.110
2.	Bihar	4.030
3.	Goa	0.298
4.	Gujarat	4.030

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
5.	Haryana	1.910
6.	Karnataka	5.200
7.	Kerala	0.298
8.	Madhya Pradesh	4.030
9.	Maharashtra	9.810
10.	Orissa	5.110
11.	Tamil Nadu	11.030
12.	Uttar Pradesh	22.435
13.	West Bengal	1.920
14.	Punjab	2.134
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.125
16.	Rajasthan	2.388
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.513
18.	Assam	0.513
19.	Meghalaya	0.513
20.	Manipur	0.513
21.	Mizoram	0.513
22.	Nagaland	1.026
23.	Sikkim	0.513
24.	Tripura	1.026
25.	Indian Agri. Research Institute New Delhi	2.201 *
26.	Indian Agri. Research Institute Karnal, Haryana	2.201 *
27.	Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Maharashtra	4.402 *
		96.792

* for multiplication of grafts of fruit trees

STATEMENT-II

State-wise Allocation of funds during 1991-92 for Development of fruit Tress in various schemes of Central Government

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Name of State/UT</i>	<i>Amount allocated (Rs.inlakhs)</i>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32.361
2.	Bihar	35.391
3.	Goa	1.441
4.	Gujarat	18.810
5.	Haryana	8.460
6.	Karnataka	20.310
7.	Kerala	10.691
8.	Madhya Pradesh	27.560
9.	Maharashtra	30.111
10.	Orissa	15.960
11.	Tamil Nadu	26.810
12.	Uttar Pradesh	52.111
13.	West Bengal	26.426
14.	Punjab	8.519
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.000
16.	Rajasthan	15.519
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.301
18.	Assam	10.551
19.	Meghalaya	2.551
20.	Mizoram	2.201
21.	Nagaland	2.301
22.	Sikkim	2.151
23.	Tripura	4.852

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Amount allocated (Rs.inlakhs)
24.	Manipur	2.551
25.	Himachal Pradesh	1.750
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.100
27.	Chandigarh	0.100
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.100
29.	Delhi	0.100
30.	Daman Diu	0.150
31.	Lakshdweep	0.100
32.	Pondicherry	0.100
33.	Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Maharashtra	4.405*
TOTAL		369.344

*for supply of grafts of fruit trees.

**Release during 1991-92 will depend upon utilisation by the State Governments.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many other issues are related to the question that has been raised. Even trees are of different types- some are fruit bearing trees and others are ornamental trees. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission in regard to irregularities being committed in respect of planting trees. Will the Government hold enquiry into the matter?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know as to how much amount is earmarked in the Budget for planting and maintaining these trees separately. The Central Government should select a state as a test case and find out the number of trees planted there during the last 8-10 years. Supposing that 50-60 percent is the rate of mortality of these plants, even then the number of surviving trees shown in the records is a matter to be investigated.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to relate the present position in Delhi. The total area of Delhi is 1496-1500 Sq. kms. If 50-60 percent of the total trees recorded on papers as planted during the last ten years are taken as dead, even then the entire area of Delhi should have been covered by trees. As per the figure shown in the documents, there should have been trees even under this roof where we are occupying these chairs.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: And instead of sitting in the Chairs, each one of us would have been sitting on the branches of those trees.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Where there is a will, there is a way. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the Government proposes to examine the matter in a particular State taking it as a test case? The most significant factor in it is to find out the number of surviving trees as also the

reasons why the rate of survival is low, and whether the staff is utilized properly or not. Has any criterion been laid down to ascertain the percentage of the surviving trees? What are the reasons for the low percentage? Will the hon. Minister furnish information in this regard?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Khurana is a close friend of mine. That is why I did not consider it proper to interrupt him. When he raised the question, he should have specified the type of trees he was referring to. He referred to fruit bearing trees and not to afforestation. He should ask a separate question for that purpose. Grants are given for planting fruit bearing trees, the whole question concerns the same. Had he asked question on tree plantation in general, I would have given the reply accordingly and removed all his doubts on this score.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second supplementary question is whether any survey has been conducted to find out the average amount spent on the maintenance of each fruit bearing tree and the income therefrom during the last 4-5-years?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the scheme was introduced in 1990-91. It was started to provide nutritional food to a common man who cannot afford to buy fruits. The average per capita nutritional intake in our country is just 40 gms as compared to 140 gms laid down as the minimum health standard in other countries. It was for this reason that this scheme was introduced so that those who neither possess much land nor each much are benefited. However the scheme is meant only for the people of rural areas and not the urbanites who live in concrete houses and flats. Provision of grant of Rs. 5/- for planting 10 trees has been made so that rural people develop a love for trees. The Government had chalked out another plan for the resurrection of the gardens which have outlined their life. Extra grant would be sanctioned per hectare for that purpose; for instance Rs. 1200/- for mango trees, Rs. 2200 for citrus and a similar amount for guava trees. But that is a

separate scheme. It contains the record of the earning and also expenditure. Only those persons who have interest in horticulture and grow fruit bearing trees will be able to furnish such record. The Government want to take measures for their benefit. The Government are aware that this scheme would be more beneficial as compared to growing conventional crops. Only if proper attention is paid to it. Hence, I would like to pay special attention to horticulture.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier, fruit bearing trees were grown on both sides of roads, but that practice seems to have been given up; if at all trees are grown, only ornamental trees are grown there. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to collaborate with PWD in States to give incentives to the people for this purpose?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has given a good suggestion. I would write to the PWD on your behalf, you too should do the same. They may take up this work.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I went through the detailed figures given by the hon. Minister I thought that Himachal Pradesh would top the list...

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, it is the question of the whole country.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: I am drawing the attention towards the same. In the Budget, for the year 1990-91, the name of Himachal Pradesh do not figure at all because no funds have been granted to the State. In 1991-92, the State got just Rs. 1.750 lakh. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the funds earmarked for Himachal Pradesh against State Government's demand for subsidy to the apple growers? How much is the total production of this crop in the State and how much of it the Centre propose to purchase?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Your supplementary is not relevant to the question. Earlier the subsidy was being given on 50:50

basis if available, I will give the complete details....(Interruptions)....Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh too grown apple crop in good measure and no State is discriminated.

[*English*]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Sir, the Minister has explained two schemes on the fruit bearing trees and the amount earmarked of each State. Considering that the amount earmarked for each State is a very meagre amount and it is not likely to have an impact on the basis of the amount earmarked, will the Government allow the State Governments and the forest departments to include fruit bearing trees in their afforestation programme? Sir, I am not asking a question about afforestation. Under the social forestry scheme, which is financed by the World Bank, now the norms are that only Eucalyptus family tree can be grown. It is consuming lot of water and makes the soil useless. In view of this, will the Government please consider including fruit bearing trees also, instead of trees of Eucalyptus family the social forestry and afforestation schemes.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Last year, the allocation was Rs. 132 lakhs but the expenditure was only Rs. 96 lakhs and this year, we have been provided with Rs. 369 lakhs or something. If they provide us with all the expenditure data and statistics, then we can say that much can be done and we want that much more progress should be made. There is no binding or limit on that. About the other scheme, we have the same facts.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I want to know whether this scheme can be utilised for additional employment. As Khuranaji very sharply drew your attention, even 50 per cent of the fruit bearing trees are not kept alive. If individuals are assigned a bunch of trees along the rural roads or anywhere and are allowed to garner the harvest, then additional employment and income can be generated. I know that under the IRDP scheme in the country side, such projects are there and particularly in West Bengal where panchayat system is very

strong. If these are channelised via panchayats, through IRDP or independently, then perhaps, along with income generation, some amount of employment would also be generated. Would you consider such a scheme?

MR. SPEAKER: This is already included in the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: This has to be thought out by PWD but this is a good suggestion.

[*Translation*]

It will yield double benefit.

[*English*]

I appreciate that. I have seen in other countries also. They plant such trees. Why cannot we also do it? That has to be done. I will try to promote this scheme with them. I think we can do this in social forestry also and I have a scheme for that; I am going to do something about it and see whether people can be employed or not. This much of trees, this much of pay, this much of interest and profit after five years, etc. can be calculated and can be done. This will be something very interesting to protect the environment also in this country.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Mr. speaker, Sir, from the figures of allocation of funds as shown in reply to the main question, I find that the funds allocated for States like Madhya Pradesh are like a drop in the ocean. Six districts each of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh comprise Bundelkhand region. A part of Jhansi district and a part of Tikamgarh district which is my constituency also in Madhya Pradesh....The soil of that area is also ideally suited for raising fruit bearing trees.

But no incentives have yet been given to these two areas. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether a special allocation will be made for such backward areas, where

the land is fertile enough to grow fruit bearing trees?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Even last year's allocation has not been utilised fully. Last year, the allocation was Rs. 4 lakhs and this year, it was Rs. 27 lakhs. If she can make more efforts, I am with her and will provide more funds.

SHRI ANKUSHRAORAO SAHEB TOPE: The Government of Maharashtra has launched such a scheme for which a provision of Rs. 100 crores has been made by them. The State Government is providing 50 per cent subsidy to the marginal farmers for this work. Will the Central Government also launch such a scheme so that more fruit bearing trees could be grown?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I have already congratulated the people and the Government of Maharashtra for showing the way. Under the irrigation scheme, they are providing 50 per cent subsidy for drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation. We have made the largest contribution for that scheme. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I used to be the Speaker of Lok Sabha at that time. I have also made contribution to that scheme. It is necessary that we all should contribute for proper implementation of that scheme. I am making every effort in this regard.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government scheme for planting fruit Government scheme for planting fruit bearing trees in rural areas for which survey work was done by the department is very ineffective. Schemes are launched for growing fruit bearing trees in places where the chances of growing trees are remote. I would like to know whether centres would be opened at divisional level in every state for rearing fruit trees and for surveying the areas where such trees could be grown?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: The State Governments are my resources. I want to reach the people through them. It depends on them as to how much work they can extract from their Agriculture Ministry and engage their people to work at divisional

level. We are ready to provide what we from here.

Scheme for identification of non-irrigated land

*103. **SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to conduct survey for identification of the non-irrigated land in various States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). The Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is publishing on year to year basis Land Use Statistics which inter-alia include the State-wise details of irrigated lands, total cropped area, total culturable area. According to the latest available Land Use Statistics for the year 1987-88, out of the gross sown area of 172881 thousand hectares, gross irrigated area is 52216 thousand hectares which is about 33% of the gross sown area. The remaining area is un-irrigated.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is publishing land use statistics on year to year basis. I am distressed to say that the figures given here by the Minister related to 1987-88. Actually, he should have given the figures for 1990-91. If they were not available, he should have given the figures for 1989-90. According to the figures, the hon. Minister has said that there is 33 per cent gross irrigated area in the country. I have asked about the unirrigated land in the country. The hon. Minister has replied..

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question. You are repeating the same thing