

being the main component of the food, there is this deficiency of protein content. This is an attempt to rectify that deficiency, so that by addition of this to the normal food of cereals which is taken, the protein deficiency may be rectified, particularly amongst non-meat eating people. It should be viewed in that context, not as if it is a staple food for the millions.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: On a point of order. The Minister has just now said that there is no scheme sponsored by Government called 'food for the millions'. I know definitely that there is a scheme sponsored by Government called either 'meals for the millions' or 'food for the millions'. There is a board outside office of a special officer for the meals for millions movement. What does the Minister mean by contradicting it?

Shri A. M. Thomas: That is a non-official organisation.

Mr. Speaker: Is there an advertisement or publication like that?

Shri Swaran Singh: I would like to check on that. But I would very much like that the millions do adopt this food so that their protein deficiency may be rectified.

Per Acre Yield of Foodgrains

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*402. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Inder J. Malhotra:
Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that per acre yield of foodgrains has not increased appreciably;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the yield per acre?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture

(Shri Shinde): (a) and (b). For the study of trends in yield, index numbers of productivity (yield) should be taken into account instead of the figures of absolute yields as they are not comparable over the years because of changes in the method of estimation made since independence. Further as yields in any particular year are considerably influenced by weather conditions, increase or decrease in yields per acre has to be studied by taking averages of a period of at least three years. During the trienniums ending 1951-52 and trienniums ending 1961-62, the average yield of foodgrains increased by nearly 21 per cent.

(c) Comprehensive programmes for intensive cultivation of rice in 40 selected districts and of millets and pulses in 100 selected districts are being implemented. It is also proposed to implement intensive cultivation of wheat in 20 districts. These programmes are in addition to Package Programmes started earlier in 15 selected districts.

Shri Subodh Hansda: The reply to (a) and (b) is not at all convincing. What I wanted to know is the yield per acre. The answer given is the average yield for the last ten years. What is the increase in yield per acre in the last ten years? If there is no increase in the yield per acre, who is responsible for it?

Shri A. M. Thomas: There has been an increase in the yield per acre. We have stated first that the yield has to be considered for a number of years, over a long period. It was due to natural vagaries that the yield has been affected in the last two years, this year as well as last year. That does not mean that there has not been increase in the per acre yield. That is why we have said that the results have to be judged over a long period. If the last ten years are taken into consideration, the average yield has gone up by 21 per cent.

Shri Subodh Hansda: In the statement it is said that to increase food

production in our country, some comprehensive programmes have been taken up for intensive cultivation in 40 districts. I would like to know what steps Government have taken in those districts which are very backward, and which are not given any irrigation facilities at all, to increase production.

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is well known, and it has been mentioned several times on the floor of the House, that there is an intensive agricultural programme known as the Package District Programme; then there is the intensive rice cultivation programme, that is in 40 districts where rice is grown as the staple grain; and then there is the dry farming programme for jowar, bajra and millets; then there is the intensive wheat cultivation programme. So, if the hon. Member puts a question with regard to any particular area, I will be able to mention the exact steps taken.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : जब से कम्युनिटी डेवलपमेंट का प्रोग्राम शुरू हुआ है, हम ने कई नई किस्म की खादों का इस्तेमाल करना शुरू किया है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन नई खादों के इस्तेमाल से पैदावार में कितनी बढ़ोतरी हुई है और यदि ये खादें कामयाब नहीं हुई हैं, तो सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में क्या तरीका अख्तियार कर रही है।

Shri A. M. Thomas: There are several programmes for supply of fertilisers, then there is the plant protection programme, then there are improved agricultural practices in general, supply of improved seeds etc. So, several programmes have been undertaken, and the increase cannot be attributed to one factor alone. Of course, the major portion of the increase is attributed to increased use of fertilisers.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: My question was definite: what is the increase due to these methods.

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Mr. Speaker: That he has said.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: He says it cannot be attributed to anything.

Mr. Speaker: Several factors contribute to the increase, it is not possible to assess the increase on one item separately. That is the answer.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: But my question was whether fertilisers have given any benefit.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Yes, I have stated that the major portion of the increase is attributable to the use of fertilisers.

Shri S. N. Chaturvedi: What is the average yield on the Government mechanised farm as compared to private mechanised farms?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I want a separate question on that.

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi: May I know the specific measures adopted by Government to give better facilities to the farmers to reduce the time gap between the completion of the major irrigation projects and the actual utilisation of the same at least at those places where the projects have been completed.

Shri A. M. Thomas: This matter has been discussed and dealt with on several occasions. In fact, in all debates this matter of the time lag in the use of water which has been trapped at such enormous cost has been referred to. Now, channels are being dug, and this matter is being taken up with the State Governments and suitable measures are being adopted now. In fact, the Ministry of Irrigation and Power is looking into it, and the Central Agricultural Food Production Board, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Food and Agriculture, also is looking into it.

Shri Shashi Ranjan: While assessing the yield per acre, is Government in a position to ascertain the cost of production, and assure the farmers

that their investment would be safe and profitable?

Shri A. M. Thomas: That is a larger question. There have been sample surveys conducted to assess the cost of production. Apart from that, there has not been any intensive effort to arrive at the cost of production.

Shri Himmatsinhji: May I know whether proper soil analysis is done in most parts of India before advising farmers to use inorganic manures?

Shri A. M. Thomas: That is a very important question. We are very particular that proper soil analysis should be undertaken before any particular fertiliser is prescribed for any particular field. For that purpose, we have set up soil testing centres in all block centres. There are also soil testing laboratories.

Shri Jashvant Mehta: In the statement it says that there has been a 21 per cent increase in the past ten years. Looking at the deficit of foodgrains, may I know the criteria that the Government have decided for selecting different States and the different commodities in the different areas?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The increase in production can be by expansion of the area under cultivation or by intensive cultivation. The increase in average yield is due to intensive use of fertilisers and plant protection measures and other things. I have already mentioned that the increased yield per acre comes to 21 per cent over a period of ten years.

Shri Jashvant Mehta: My question was about the criteria.

Mr. Speaker: It was difficult for the Minister to answer that question which covered very wide subjects; therefore, that has not been given.

Shri Tyagi: With a view to increasing the average productivity of foodgrains in the whole country, have the Government taken care to make any field-wise survey of agricultural

potentialities and the requirements of cultivators with regard to irrigation facilities, agricultural implements, finances, seeds, fertilisers, etc.?

Shri A. M. Thomas: That is the idea. It is being done in the package district programmes and also in the intensive agricultural programme in the 14 districts for rice and in 20 districts for wheat.

Credit to Farmers

***403. Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the progress made in the first three years of the Third Five Year Plan in providing credit to farmers has not been satisfactory;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total amount earmarked for farm credit under the Third Five Year Plan and the amount so far utilised; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure prompt and speedy disposal of the money allotted for farm credit?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) to (d). Against a target of Rs. 512 crores set up by the state governments for the supply of short and medium-term credit during the last year of the plan, the co-operatives supplied Rs. 288 crores in 1961-62. The provisional figures for 1962-63 are Rs. 256 crores and the estimate for 1963-64 is Rs. 318 crores. The progress is not upto expectation. The reasons are:—(i) weakness of the credit structure particularly at the primary level, (ii) organisational deficiencies, (iii) increasing trend of overdues, (iv) defective loaning policies, etc. A detailed action programme for removing these deficiencies is being drawn up and will be circulated to the state governments shortly.