

Agricultural Production

- +
- Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:
- *2. { Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Sarjoo Pandey:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:

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

(a) the advice given to State Governments for increasing food production and streamlining the administration for the purpose; and

(b) the steps taken by State Governments on such advice?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2244/64].

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: In the statement it has been pointed out that the Group has found a number of weaknesses in the existing arrangements and the programmes under implementation. May I know what are these weaknesses that have been identified and what steps are being taken to remedy the weaknesses?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: One of the weaknesses noticed is that the supplies needed for agricultural production should be made available to agriculturists in time and so we have tightened up that machinery. Apart from that, minor irrigation requirements were also noticed and these have also been made available to them.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: The hon. Minister has just given one of the weaknesses. The hon. Minister for Agriculture himself as well as the Chief Ministers of various States have pointed out the serious administrative deficiencies at all levels and the Prime Minister has also said

about the rational distribution of portfolios. May I know what steps have been taken to streamline the administration and to bring about better coordination at all the different levels and do away with the extraneous consideration and personal factors in the vital matter?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: About effecting reforms in the administrative set-up, last year a Working Group was set up and that Working Group unanimously made certain recommendations. That Report has been sent to all the State Government—it was sent on 18th October, last year—and almost all the State Governments have accepted that Report as a basis for effecting reforms. Rajasthan and Punjab State Governments are implementing the recommendations made in that Report. About the portfolio of Agriculture to be handled by the Chief Minister, as has been mentioned by the hon. Member, one Chief Minister has already taken up this portfolio. We are mostly guided by the Report made by the Working Group.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I only wanted to know what the recommendations of the Committee are. What is the use of saying that the committee has made certain recommendations and those are being accepted by all the State Governments? My main question was, as certain administrative weaknesses have been pointed out, what are those weaknesses and what are the recommendations of the committee. We must know the facts and not that the committee was appointed and certain recommendations were made.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: We have already placed the Report on the Table of the Sabha.

श्री सरजू पाण्डेय : इस स्टेटमेंट को देखने से मातूम होता है कि केन्द्र सरकार ने राज्य सरकारों से खादों को पापुलाराइज करने के लिए भी कहा है। मेरे पास रूककेला

की खाद का नमूना मौजूद है और यह जो खाद दी जा रही है उसमें कंकड़ हैं और किसान लोग उसको लेने से इन्कार कर रहे हैं तो क्या सरकार खादों की क्वालिटी के बारे में भी देखभाल करने जा रही है कि जो खाद दी जा रही है वह दरअसल खाद है या कंकड़ है क्योंकि मेरे पास अभी यह खाद का नमूना मौजूद है और मैं इसे मंत्री जी को देखने के लिए दे सकता हूँ

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य श्री जी को नीचे रख लें और यहां पर उसका डिमांडेशन न करे ।

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : रुरकेला की खाद क्लेशियम एमोनियम नाइट्रेट को उसकी क्वालिटी टेस्ट करने के बाद बांटा जाता है और दूसरी जगहों में भी उसे भेजा जाता है लेकिन मैं इसका पता लगा लूंगा । वैसे यह अच्छा होता अगर माननीय सदस्य ने इसको वहीं से सम्बन्धित जिला अधिकारी को बतलाया होता और वह भी इसकी जांच करा लेते ।

Shri Tyagi: The hon. Minister seems to be satisfied with the idea of entrusting the agriculture portfolio to the Chief Ministers. I do not know whether this is the only cure which he has suggested. But there was one Nalagarh Committee appointed some time back, and that committee had made certain recommendations. I would like to know which of those recommendations have been accepted so far by Government, and whether the various departments like agriculture, co-operation, community development, fisheries, cattle breeding, irrigation, revenue, warehousing etc. are still being handled separately by separate Ministers or whether they have been integrated.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The hon. Member knows about that. Irrigation and revenue are being handled by separate Ministers; when I am referring to irrigation, I am referring

particularly to major irrigation. As for the other portfolios like animal husbandry, forestry, minor irrigation, panchayati raj, co-operation etc., this report has suggested that they should be handled by a Department called the Department of Agricultural Production and Rural Development. Here, we are having...

Shri Tyagi: Has that been done?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Hon. Members cannot ask supplementaries to their supplementary questions.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The hon. Food and Agricultural Minister had four meetings last month and this month, and all the State Governments have accepted the suggestions made.

Shri Ranga: Are Government aware that one of the serious disincentives to increased agricultural production is the tendency on the part of the State Governments to increase the land revenue assessment by more than 100 per cent in Andhra Pradesh and more than 300 per cent in other States?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: That is totally a matter for the State Governments. Here, we are governed by the recommendations made by the Planning Commission and the study in our own Ministry.

Shri Daji: Is it a fact that all the State Governments have accepted the suggestions, but not one of them has implemented the same, and if so, what steps are the Central Government taking to get them implemented?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: As I said, it is being implemented in Rajasthan and Punjab, as well as Pondicherry, and other State Governments have also accepted the principle, and as you know, the decision can be implemented within one month, because we have been holding meetings during the past six weeks or so. It will take some time for full implementation.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: In Rajasthan, these portfolios are handled by three or four different Ministers.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: Is it a fact that many State Governments have been unable to spend the allocations that have been made to them from the Centre for agricultural purposes? May I also know whether the attention of the State Governments concerned, particularly those who have been defaulters in this respect and have created shortfalls, has been drawn to this matter and any steps taken to remedy the position?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Last year, when the Central teams visited the States, this matter was brought to the notice of all the State Governments, and in the regional meetings which were recently called by the Food and Agriculture Minister, again, we brought all these things to the notice of the State Governments. Now, the whole machinery has been geared up, and there is likelihood of expanded expenditure this year, because this year the allocation is going to be about Rs. 150 crores plus the accelerated assistance that we gave last year of Rs. 19.6 crores.

श्री राम सहाय पाण्डेय : "अधिक अन्न उपजाना" योजना के अन्तर्गत केन्द्र सरकार ने मध्य प्रदेश के साथ मिल कर चम्बल रैवाइन्ज को रिक्लेम करके उस को खेती-योग्य बनाने की एक योजना बनाई थी। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस सम्बन्ध में क्या प्रगति हुई है।

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : उस के सम्बन्ध में मध्य प्रदेश सरकार कुछ काम कर रही है और उन लोगों ने ट्रैक्टर वगैरह की मांग की है। उन मांगों को हम पूरा कर रहे हैं, ताकि सारी कार्यवाही विधिवत चलती रहे।

Indian Fisheries Corporation

+
*3. { **Shri Vishram Prasad:**
Shri Warrior:
Shri M. K. Kumaran:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 493 on the 10th December, 1963 and state:

(a) whether the recommendation received from American firm regarding setting up the Indian Fisheries Corporation has since been discussed; and

(b) if so, the terms of collaboration?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shiinde): (a) and (b). Negotiations with the American firm to settle the terms of collaboration have not yet concluded.

Shri Vishram Prasad: How long will it take to finalise the negotiation with the firm? Last time, it was reported that negotiations were being conducted.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): They have given their report. Some discussions have also taken place on the 5th of this month. They have been asked to give a report containing revised proposals. After its receipt, we will finalise the matter.

Shri Vishram Prasad: How far will this corporation be helpful in solving the food shortage in the country?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is well known that our efforts to promote a larger fishing industry have not been quite successful. Of course, there has been some significant advance in the private sector. That is why the State itself wants to come into the field with the help of a foreign company