

(The main features of a power tiller are given in the statement enclosed.)

Statement

Power Tillers are hand operated tractors specially designed and developed for use on small and medium sized farms. The machine is relatively simple in construction and weighs 300 to 500 kgs. The field working speed of the tiller varies from 1 to 6 Kms per hour enabling the operator to walk behind the tiller. Power Tiller is suitable for farm jobs viz. puddling, ploughing, tilling, ridging, levelling and inter-cultivation. It can also be used for operating centrifugal pumps, sprayers, dusters, threshers, hullers etc. When hitched to a trailer, it can move at a maximum speed of about 10 to 15 Kms per hour. It can carry 1-2 tonnes load depending on the size of trailer and type of road.

Godavari Basin Project

1247. SHRI ANNASAHAB GOTKHINDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state the particulars of the projects in the Godavari basin in Maharashtra cleared after the agreement between the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH): 4 major irrigation projects of Maharashtra namely Upper Wardha, Jayakwadi Stage II, Upper Penganga and Manjra in the Godavari basin have been cleared by the

Planning Commission after the agreement was reached between the Chief Ministers of the basin States in December, 1975. The brief particulars of these projects are as under:—

Name of the	Estimated cost (Rs. lakhs)	Benefits ('000' hectares)
1. Upper Wardha .	3988.00	75.98
2. Jayakwadi State II	8890.00	135.57
3. Upper Panganga	8448.00	111.51
4. Manjra	2019.35	27.80

Foodgrains damaged by insects and rats and due to lack of storage facilities

1248. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU:

SHRI B. S. BHAURA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a good quantity of foodgrains has been damaged by insects and rats and also due to lack of storage facilities;

(b) if so, the percentage of foodgrains damaged during 1975-76; and

(c) whether Government have decided to grant financial assistance to farmers to make arrangements for better storing of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). Stocks in the godowns of public sector agencies like Food Corporation of India, Central Warehousing Corporation etc., are stored properly and appropriate preservation techniques are adopted as a result of which

there is negligible damage to foodgrains. Precautions are also being taken to ensure that foodgrains which are stored over raised plinths are covered by rain proof polythene covers with adequate dunnage. No estimate on all India basis in regard to such damage has been made.

(c) Under the 'Save Grain Campaign' being implemented by this Department loans are given to State Governments for fabrication of small size metal bins for better storage and for distribution to farmers on deferred payment basis.

Rice from Tamil Nadu

1249. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tamil Nadu will hand over to the Centre the bulk of its rice stocks; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNA-SAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). The Tamil Nadu Government had originally offered one lakh tonnes of kuruvai rice to the Central pool which was accepted by the Government of India. The Tamil Nadu Government now propose to hand over a further quantity of 1.9 lakh tonnes of Kuruvai rice and 4.64 lakh tonnes of samba rice to the Central rice to the Central pool and draw its requirement of rice for public distribution from the Central pool. The terms and conditions of the transfer of these stocks to Central pool are being finalised.

New Strategy for Wheat and Paddy

1250. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the new strategy for 1976-77 agriculture year for increasing production of wheat and paddy in the country; and

(b) the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHU-DAS PATEL): (a) and (b). The strategy of increasing production of wheat and rice during 1976-77 includes expansion of area under high yielding varieties of these crops, sizeable increase in the use of chemical fertilisers and better management practices.

The area under high-yielding varieties of Rice is projected to increase from the estimated level of 12.97 million hectares in 1975-76 to 13.50 million hectares in 1976-77 and that under Wheat from 13.66 million hectares in 1975-76 to 14 million hectares in 1976-77. The total consumption of chemical fertilisers during 1976-77 is envisaged at 36,000 lakh tonnes, as against the likely achievement of 28.92 lakh tonnes in 1975-76 for all crops.

During the current Kharif Season, a National Campaign has been launched for raising Rice productivity in general and in the Eastern States in particular, through timely sowing with the help of community nurseries and adoption of better management practices. An intensive training programme has been carried out at 17 Research Stations/Institutes for the education of the farmers in the adoption of improved production techno-