

**Self-sufficiency in Raw Material by planting Cashew**

2484. SHRI GANGADHAR APPA BURAND: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has made any proposal for a long term plan for achieving raw material self-sufficiency by planting cashew; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). For increasing the indigenous production of raw cashewnut the Government of India in collaboration with various cashew growing States have initiated several development programmes both in the State Sector as well as in Central Sector. The State Sector schemes in Kerala mainly aim at increasing production through Area Expansion to the extent of 72,000 ha. during the Fifth Plan. In the Central Sector, schemes for production of high yielding plant material from selected parent trees through vegetative propagation on 5300 ha., organising demonstrations of improved package of practices on 9200 ha. and the establishment of cashew progeny orchards on 120 ha. during the Fifth Plan, are under implementation in Kerala State. The Government of India have sanctioned a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for raising cashew plantations in 85,000 ha. of private lands and 60,000 ha. in Government lands in different States. Under this Scheme a total Central assistance of Rs. 25 crores to Government of Kerala has been approved as subsidy for plantation of cashew in 25,000 ha. of private lands and 10,000 ha. of Government lands in Kerala, in a phased manner. The amount of subsidy for Government lands and private lands is Rs. 500 and Rs. 300 per ha. respectively.

**Food Production**

2485. SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an assessment of the total foodgrains required in this country based on the per capita minimum consumption;

(b) if so, the particulars thereof; and

(c) the developmental efforts envisaged for achieving indigenously the minimum required production and the period of time expected for fruition of the efforts?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The National Commission on Agriculture (N.C.A.) has placed the minimum nutritional requirements of foodgrains at 440 gms. per day or 160.6 kgs. per year. On this basis, the requirements for the country for the last year of the Fifth Plan work out to 118.3 million tonnes (gross). It is relevant to point out that the minimum nutritional diet as suggested by the N.C.A. provides in addition to foodgrains, the supply of specified quantities of other foodstuffs, such as, fruits and vegetables, fats and oils, milk and milk products, meat, fishes, eggs, sugar and jaggery. Since the supply of foodstuffs other than cereals in our country at present is not adequate, it is necessary to make up the shortfall by providing for a higher intake of cereals for the people. It may be mentioned that the observed per capita availability of foodgrains during recent years in the country has been higher than the minimum requirements suggested by the N.C.A. The revised foodgrain production target of 125 million tonnes for the Fifth Five Year Plan is expected to ensure per capita availability of foodgrains by