

[*Translation*]

**Introduction of crop Insurance Scheme**

2042. **SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH** : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes proposed to be taken up in future to increase the agriculture production and provide inputs and more irrigational water and powers to farmers keeping in view the inadequate supply of power and irrigational water in rural areas, particularly during the current year ;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to improve the situation and provide more facilities to farmers ;

(c) whether Government are considering increased prices for agricultural produce in view of the hike in prices of farm inputs because of which the farmers are not getting adequate return ; and

(d) whether, keeping in view heavy losses suffered by the farmers due to natural calamities and their financial lot being dependent on agricultural produce, Government propose to introduce crop insurance scheme and if so, by what time ?

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH)** : (a) and (b). Government have introduced a massive programme in the form of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme providing assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers for increasing agricultural production in all the blocks of the country. The Scheme provides for subsidy on minor irrigation works and free distribution of minikits of seed and fertilisers for oilseeds and pulses to small and marginal farmers. Irrigational requirements of the farmers are also being adequately met through modernisation of irrigation systems. The States have been advised to provide adequate and timely power supply for agricultural purposes.

(c) While fixing support/procurement price, it is ensured that it covers cost of production and also provides a reasonable margin of profit to give incentive to farmers for investment and adoption of improved farm technology. The procurement/support prices of major agricultural crops have been raised substantially during the last five years to make them more remunerative to the farmers.

(d) An area based scheme of crop insurance is already in operation in the country since 1979. It is linked with crop loans and covers all risks due to natural calamities, pest attack etc. It is proposed to further expand the scheme from Kharif 1985 to cover all loanee farmers in respect of wheat, paddy, pulses, oilseeds and millets.

[*English*]

**Production and consumption of edible oils**

2043. **SHRI G. BHOOPATHY** : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the annual production and consumption of edible oils in the country ;

(b) whether there is an annual deficit of around 1.2 million tonnes in the consumption of edible oils in the country ;

(c) how Government propose to meet deficit ; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to increase the production of oil-seeds in the country ?

**THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH)** : (a) During 1983-84, the production and demand of edible oils in the country was 33 lakh tonnes and about 49 lakh tonnes respectively.

(b) There was a deficit of around 1.6 million tonnes between the demand