

Financial assistance to farmers for adopting modern agriculture practices

3975. SHRI MOHAN BHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the farmers in the country are small and marginal farmers and they are interested to adopt modern agricultural practices, but their resources are limited;

(b) if so, steps being taken to provide them financial assistance through nationalised banks and cooperative banks;

(c) whether any instructions have been issued to the banks in this regard; if so, the details of the instructions issued; and

(d) whether Government are considering to announce some comprehensive schemes for providing financial assistance to small and marginal farmers to enable them to increase the agricultural products ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Commercial Banks are advised to advance at least 25% of the priority sector advance or 10% of total bank-credit to small farmers marginal farmers and other weaker sections. About 95% of the advances of Regional Rural Banks go to them. Cooperatives are instructed to advance at least 20% of their advances to small and marginal farmers. Fresh credit will be available to small and marginal farmers even if they have default upto 10% of the earlier loan. Lower rate of interest, reduction in down payment, longer period for repayment, low rate of share linking are the other concessions given to small and marginal farmers by the cooperatives.

(d) There is already a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for providing financial assistance to small and marginal farmers for increasing agricultural production.

Plan to modernise bullock carts

3976. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND

RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plans to modernise age-old bullock carts in the country;

(b) whether Government consider it necessary to bring the improvised bullock carts on to the roads of rural India, so as to bring transformation in transport system in the rural areas; and

(c) whether Government propose to extend loan facilities to the farmers for acquiring improvised bullock carts ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government in the Ministry of Shipping and Transport has been finding research and improved bullock design through:

(i) Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore.

(ii) Central Road Research Institute (C.R.R.I), Research Institute under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. In addition the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is also engaged in some research through All-India Coordinated Project and through the Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal.

(b) Yes, Sir. Improved bullock carts manufactured by Public and Private Organisations are available in the country.

(c) Yes, Sir. Commercial and cooperative banks provide loans to farmers for purchase of bullock carts.

Coconut production* in Kerala

3977. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been increase in coconut production during 1984-85 as compared to 1983-84 and the percentage thereof; and

(b) the percentage of national demand for

coconut being met by Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b). Final estimate of coconut production for crop year 1984-85 has not yet become due from the States. During 1983-84, production in Kerala accounted for about 46% of the total production of coconuts in the country. The details are as under :

State	Area (Thousand Ha)	Production (Million nuts)	Yield (Nuts/ Ha)
Kerala	676.4	2694.7	3984
All India	1154.8	5871.0	5084

Allocation of oil to States

3978. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of each type of edible oil allocated, State-wise, during 1984-85 and preceding year, vis-a-vis corresponding quantity lifted;

(b) whether large regional differences exist in allocating edible oil amongst States;

(c) oil estimated to be produced, State-wise;

(d) whether per capita availability of oil is uniform; if so, details thereof; and

(e) how Government estimate the demand of edible oil, year-wise and State-wise and how is supply/availability thereof monitored to prevent scarcity and price rise and steps Government took during Sixth Plan in that direction with outcome ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) Information is given in statements I to IV.

(b) to (e). The oil is allocated to various State/Union Territories from month to month on the basis of demand, consumption pattern, festival season, availability of indigenous edible oils in the State/region, availability of stock with State Trading Corporation of India and other relevant factors including pace of lifting of edible oils allocated earlier. To meet the requirement of edible oil for the country, the requisite amount of edible oil is imported keeping in view the availability of indigenous edible oils. The various measures taken/being taken by the Government to increase the production of oilseeds and oils are as follows :—

- (1) Intensive programme for development of oilseeds in oilseed producing States. The Scheme aims at demonstration on farmers' fields, strengthening of seed production and distribution arrangement, expansion of plant protection measures, extension of irrigated areas etc.
- (2) Launching of special projects on production of groundnut in Saurashtra region of Gujarat and Soya-bean in Madhya Pradesh.
- (3) Better incentive to producers through fixation of minimum support prices.
- (4) Intensification of research efforts for increasing the productivity of oilseeds.
- (5) Increase in area under non-traditional oilseed crop like soyabean and sunflower and exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran etc.
- (6) Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme of oilseeds.