

The request of the State Government for drought relief is under consideration.

Increase in Production of Wheat and Rice to Meet the Requirements of Increasing Population in the Country

46. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether food production in India is only 8 per cent of total world production whilst India has 17 percent of world population :

(b) whether due to this unequal relation between food production in India and her population, the agriculture production in the country is not enough;

(c) whether Director General of the International Rice Research Institute, (IRRI) Manila, has also cautioned against any complacency on the food front : and

(d) if so, steps being taken by Government to ensure adequate production of wheat and rice etc. in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) Foodgrains (cereals and pulses) production in India accounted for 10.6 per cent of the world's production in 1983, whereas country's population was 15.2 per cent of world's population as per 1981 census. However, this uneven distribution may not reflect as such adequacy or otherwise of availability of foodgrains as in India, the bulk of foodgrains production is used for human consumption unlike in many other countries;

(c) Despite impressive increase in foodgrains production in the country, many scientists including Director General of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) have emphasised the need for maintaining the tempo of growth of agricultural production.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to increase the production of wheat and

rice, inter-alia, include : (i) Timely, easy and adequate supply of agricultural inputs like technology, seeds, fertilisers and credit, etc. (ii) Increasing the area under high yielding varieties. (iii) Adoption of integrated plant protection measures. (iv) Assuring remunerative prices for various foodcrops to farmers.

Seminar on Rural Development

47. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a seminar on Rural Development in the country was held in New Delhi recently for the upliftment of poor population in the rural area;

(b) the details of suggestions made for the rural upliftment; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to implement them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir; a dialogical session on "Poverty Alleviation—Policy Options" was held on the 26th August, 1985. A statement containing a summary of important suggestions is given below. Most of these suggestions have been taken into consideration in the rural development programmes being implemented in the Seventh Plan.

Statement

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT SUGGESTIONS

1. There is need for proper dovetailing and integration of IRDP with other area development programmes rather than confining it to the distribution of subsidy and credit.
2. Identification of IRDP beneficiaries can be made more objective with reference to land holding. The physical quality of life can be used as an indicator rather than the subjective assessment of income by the surveyors.

3. The planning for IRDP should be more region specific as a homogenous region would be more conducive to effective action.
4. Rather than individual or family oriented approach a group or cluster approach would be more realistic.
5. A project approach should be adopted for each sector under the IRDP which should cover access to resources, training and wage employment rather than concentrating on a single activity.
6. There is a need to revitalise the delivery system.
7. Rural employment programmes should help create productive assets—productive assets particularly in agriculture so as to ensure that the poor get post project benefits and not just wage employment.
8. The resources for the employment programmes should not be thinly spreadout as this tends to dilute the impact of the programme.
9. The approach to employment should be flexible and take into account the local situation. In some areas wage employment programmes would be needed more, whereas in other areas self-employment programmes would have greater potential.
10. The public distribution system should be strengthened and extended into the entire rural area so that the full benefit of foodgrains at subsidised rates become available to the workers. The present surplus stock of foodgrains can be used for generating employment and creating productive assets.
11. There should be proper integration of land reforms with other anti-poverty programmes.
12. Consolidation of land holdings should be given adequate priority as it affects agricultural development.

13. The Panchayati raj institutions should be properly strengthened and involved in the entire implementation of the anti-poverty programmes.
14. Voluntary organisations should be fully involved in the implementation of rural development programmes.

News item "India Urged to Stop Paying U.K. Institutes"

48. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to news item "India urged to stop paying UK Institute" appearing in Hindustan Times of 10 September, 1985 and if so, the details of the case;

(b) whether Government have been paying Rs. 3.26 millions yearly in foreign exchange to the said Institute and if so reasons for the same and since how long;

(c) other countries or Institutes to whom Government are contributing with details of amounts paid annually and since when and reasons for the same; and

(d) whether Government have decided to stop the above contribution and if not, reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The news item refers to a Working Paper by a former senior Indian Scientist who has advised Govt. of India to withdraw from the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau (CAB) for achieving an over-all savings in foreign exchange and also for reviewing various aspects of CAB funding and its policies.

(b) No, Sir. The annual Indian contribution to CAB during the last few years has been as under :

1980-81	£ 61,300/-
1981-82	£ 80,500/-