

Oilseeds Development Project subsidies are provided on critical inputs in order to induce the farmers to take up oilseeds cultivation on a large scale.

Profits/Losses in National Seeds Corporation

4025. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the profits/losses of National Seeds Corporation during last three years, year-wise ;

(b) the total quantity and value of seeds with National Seeds Corporation decayed/condemned during the above period, year-wise ;

(c) the reasons for losses to seeds and whether any responsibility has been fixed ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The details of profits/losses of National Seeds Corporation during the last three years are as follows :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Profit/Loss (-) (Rs. in lakhs)</i>
1982-83	15.94
1983-84	(-) 24.15
1984-85	42.25

(b) The details of quantity and value of seeds of the National Seeds Corporation condemned/decayed during the last three years are as follows :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Quantity condemned (in Qils.)</i>	<i>Original value of condemned seed (Rs. in lakhs)</i>	<i>Net impact on Profit & Loss Account (Rs. in lakhs)</i>
1982-83	30,932	92.80	64.47
1983-84	22,768	119.15	96.09
1984-85	60,614	199.74	133.58

(c) and (d) The main reason for condemnation of seeds is that seed being a living organism, its quality deteriorates naturally with the passage of time. The conditions of storage, transportation and handling can also, at times, contribute to deterioration in quality. Sometimes, the buyers also fail to lift the full quantities of seeds indented by them. It becomes difficult to market such left-over seeds in the next season due to general reluctance among buyers for purchasing carry-over/revalidated stocks. For this reason also, seeds have to be often condemned.

The reasons for condemnation are thoroughly enquired into before actual condemnation of stocks. In case of there being any evidence of condemnation resulting due to negligence of any of the officers

of the Corporation, appropriate action is taken against the officers responsible under the relevant rules of the Corporation.

The present cases are also being pursued in the above light.

Distribution of Minikits to Farmers in West Bengal

4026. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have sponsored any scheme for assisting small and marginal farmers of West Bengal in increasing agricultural production by distributing minikits of seeds and fertilizers and providing subsidy for wells and pumpsets ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the number of small and marginal farmers of West Bengal benefited-during Sixth Plan period by such Central assistance ;

(d) the assistance released by the Union Government for such schemes in West Bengal during 1980-85 and to what extent this assistance was actually utilised by State Governments ; and

(e) target fixed for such assistance in the Seventh Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers

for Increasing Agricultural Production was launched during the last two years of the Sixth Five Year Plan in all the blocks of the country including West Bengal. Under this Scheme a sum of Rs. 3.50 lakh for minor irrigation and Rs. 1.00 lakh for free distribution of minikits of seeds fertilizers for oilseeds and pulses production including land development and staff per block per annum was earmarked. These outlays were to be shared between the Central and State Governments on 50 : 50 basis.

(c) Reports received so far from West Bengal Government reveal that a total number of about 7,77 lakh farmers have been benefited under these components of the Scheme during Sixth Five Year Plan.

(d) Central share released for minor irrigation and minikits, land development etc. and funds utilised by Government of West Bengal are indicated below :

Rs. lakhs

	<i>Central share released</i>	<i>Central funds utilized</i>
1983-84	418.55	283.79
1984-85	474.73	299.57

(e) The Scheme is being continued during the Seventh Plan with an annual outlay of Rs. 5.00 lakh (Rs.3.50 lakh for minor irrigation, Rs. 0.50 lakh for seed minikits of pulses, oilseeds and coarse grains and Rs. 1.00 lakh for land development and staff) per block.

[*Translation*]

Employment to Farmers in Fertilizer Factory at Gorakhpur for Lands Acquired

4027. SHRI JITENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an assurance was given at the time of setting up of the fertilizer factory at Gorakhpur that those farmers whose lands have been acquired for this factory will be given preference in the

matter of appointments in this factory ; and

(b) if so, the category-wise number of such persons appointed in this factory so far alongwith their percentage to the total number of employees of the factory ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) The Fertilizer Corporation of India has reported that the farmers, whose land was acquired for setting up of the factory at Gorakhpur, were given an assurance that preference would be given in the employment of one member of their family in the factory.

(a) Till 30th September, 1985, 486 oustees were provided employment in Group D category which was 21.26% of the total manpower employed in the factory.