

[Translation]

Seeds Corporations

244. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of efforts made by Government to improve the working of National and State level Seeds Corporations in the Public Sector; and

(b) the extent to which the Government have succeeded in this regard during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) An assistance of Rs. 121.50 crores has been made available to the 2 National and 10 State Seeds Corporations. The Corporations have been assisted for financial and operational restructuring by way of contribution towards margin money, equity, contributor's share for raising institutional finance, repayment of loan to Government and banks.

(b) The assistance provided to the Corporations has improved the financial and working efficiency of these Corporations, and has resulted in reduction in loan burden, increase in financial and physical turnover, restructuring of organisation, creation of infrastructural facilities, and improved financial performance

[English]

Substandard Sugar on Fair Price Shops

245. DR. SHRIMATI K. S. SOUNDARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the imported Sugar is being supplied on Fair Price Shops;

(b) the reason for supply of the poor quality of Sugar to the Fair Price Shops;

(c) whether the quota of sugar for the months of November and December 1994 is exclusively the imported Sugar;

(d) whether the price of the Sugar which was supplied to the Fair Price Shops is uniform throughout the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (e) The allocation of sugar for the Public Distribution System (PDS) during the period September, 1994 to March, 1995 was a blend of imported as well as indigenous sugar. The actual distribution of sugar to Fair Price Shops is the responsibility of State Government/UT Administration. In a vast operation much as the PDS, a few shortcomings here and there, cannot be ruled out altogether. However, complaints regarding supply of sub-standard imported sugar to fair price shops were received only from the NCT of Delhi. These complaints were investigated and the sub-standard sugar supplied to fair price shops were replaced. Sugar is distributed at a uniform retail price of Rs. 9.05 per kg throughout the country through the PDS.

Promotion of Groundnut in Gujarat

246. SHRI HARILAL NANJI PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) the funds allocated and released for the promotion of Groundnut areas of Gujarat State during the last three years;

(b) the total areas brought under cultivation in the State, District-wise;

(c) the number of farmers actually benefited under the scheme; and

(d) the total production of Groundnut in the State during the above period, and the target fixed for 1995-96 year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The funds allocated and released for the promotion of Oilseeds including groundnut areas of Gujarat State under the Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) during the last three years are as under :-

Year	(Rs. in lakhs)	
	Fund allocated	Funds released
1992-93	725.00	725.00
1993-94	1139.249	931.449
1994-95	948.750	500.000

(b) A statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

(Area in 00 ha.)

S.No.	District	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1.	Ahmedabad	21	6	3
2.	Banaskantha	26	28	21
3.	Baroda	220	217	69
4.	Broach	107	110	36
5.	Bulsar	16	12	5
6.	Dangs	10	11	33
7.	Gandhinagar	2	2	-
8.	Kaira	145	139	24
9.	Mehsana	23	32	23
10.	Panch Mahal	189	186	67
11.	Sabarkantha	387	382	308
12.	Surat	259	221	112
13.	Amreli	2890	3276	3189
14.	Bhavnagar	2180	2488	2100
15.	Jam Nagar	3335	3936	3572
16.	Junaghar	3816	4017	3927
17.	Kutch	925	541	627
18.	Rajkot	3912	4632	4202
19.	Surendranagar	377	294	245
Total Gujarat State		18840	20530	18563

(c) The total number of farmers benefited under the scheme is indicated below:

Year	Total number of Farmers
1992-93	Not available.
1993-94	316986
1994-95	215427

(d) The total production of groundnut in the State of Gujarat during the last three years is as follows:-

Year	Production (.000 tonnes)
1992-93	2068.4
1993-94	676.6
1994-95	2369.0 (tentative)

The target of production for groundnut fixed for the State during 1995-96 is 1755.00 thousand tonnes.

[Translation]

Production of Pulses/Oil Seeds

247. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) the State-wise total production of Pulses and Oilseeds during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95, separately;

(b) the amount of Central Assistance provided under various schemes to increase the production of Pulses and Oilseeds during each of the last three years, State-wise and scheme-wise;

(c) whether prices of Pulses and Oilseeds are continuously increasing; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to arrest the increase in prices thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) State-wise total production of pulses and oilseeds during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 (Likely is given in Statement.- I)

(b) State-wise central assistance provided under various scheme to increase the production of pulses and oilseeds during the last three years is given in statement-II & III.

(c) The prices of oilseeds and pulses also those of other commodities have been showing a rising trend over the years. However, the pulses have witnessed a somewhat larger increases in the prices in recent period.

(d) Apart from taking certain long-term measures to increase the production of pulses in the country, the other steps taken by the Government to contain the rise in prices of pulses include pulses under OGL for import, reduction of customs duty on import of pulses from 10% to 5% etc. Recently the Pulses, Edible oilseeds and Edible oils (Storage Control) Order, 1977 of storage limits prescribed under the said order. In addition to this, agencies like, STC, NAFED have been permitted to import pulses in the most desired quantity to augment indigenous availability of pulses. Pulses are also supplied through retail cooperative outlets like Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar and State Civil Supplies Corporation.