

marketing facilities. Under Integrated Rural Development Programme/Special Livestock Production Programme, the ceiling on subsidy admissible for tribal farmers belonging to small and marginal farmers categories has been enhanced from Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 5000/- per beneficiary. It has also decided that under this programme at least 30 per cent families selected for assistance should be from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes group.

Fixation of Milk Price on the Basis of Cost of Production

2978. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any system of fixing the milk prices based on cost of production ; and

(b) if not, how are they fixed at present ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) All the dairy plants in the public/cooperative sector in the country except Delhi Milk Scheme and the Mother Dairy, Delhi are owned and operated by the State Governments/State sponsored agencies. Delhi Milk Scheme and Delhi Mother Dairy procure their milk requirements through the State Dairy Development Cooperative Federations in the adjoining States. The dairy plants fix the prices of milk on the basis of prevailing market prices of milk and ghee/other milk products.

Average Yield per Hectare of Paddy in India and Other Countries

2979. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the average yield per hectare of rice (Paddy) crop in India and how it compares with the yield per hectare in China, Pakistan, Japan, Asia during 1983-84 ;

(b) the reasons for low yield per hectare rice (Paddy) in our country ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase the productivity of rice (Paddy) in our country and the results achieved so far ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) The per hectare yields of paddy in India along with comparable yield levels in China, Pakistan, Japan and Asia during 1983 (corresponding to 1983-84 for India) are as given below :

	Yield of Rice (Paddy) (Kg/ha)
	1983
India	2185
China	5067
Pakistan	2579
Japan	5701
Asia	3197

(b) The reasons for low productivity of paddy in India, inter-alia, include :

- (i) Inadequate irrigation coverage, particularly in Eastern States ;
- (ii) Low application of fertilisers and plant protection measures ;
- (iii) Small size of holdings particularly in the Eastern States which inhibits adoption of modern technology ;
- (iv) Low productivity levels in the Eastern States due to physical environment (water regimes, agro-climatic factors, problem soils, etc.) and the lack of suitable technology-particularly availability of modern varieties capable of withstanding problematic environments, etc.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to increase the productivity of rice (Paddy), inter-alia, include :

- (i) Increase in irrigated area under the crop ;
- (ii) Increased use of HYV and certified seeds ;
- (iii) Efficient water management and ensuring availability of water at critical stages of transplantation/crop growth.

- (iv) Increased application of fertilisers ; and need-based use of micro-nutrients ;
- (v) Adequate plant protection measures;
- (vi) Development of technology suitable for problematic areas ;
- (vii) Launching of a special rice production programme in Eastern States. This includes land development, efficient use of irrigation potential, improvement of drainage, creation of infrastructural facilities, etc. in selected blocks in these States.
- (viii) Adoption of appropriate pricing and procurement policies.

As a result of the various measures taken, the productivity of rice (Paddy) has increased from 1962 kgs/ha in 1981-82 to 2185 kgs/ha in 1983-84.

Use of Mustard oil in Vanaspati Manufacture

2980. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken or propose to take a decision to permit use of solvent extracted mustard oil in the manufacture of vanaspati as a part of their efforts to cut down the mounting import bill of edible oils ;

(b) whether any research or experiments have been conducted about the use of this oil for direct human consumption without proper refining or after refining ; if so, its findings ;

(c) the estimated quantity of such oil which will be used in vanaspati manufacture ;

(d) whether its use will lead to reduction in its price ; and

(e) if so, the anticipated fall ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA

SINGH) : (a) The proposal to permit use of solvent extracted mustard oil in the manufacture of vanaspati is engaging the attention of the Government.

(b) Experiments conducted in the past have shown that normal hexane, the solvent used for extraction of oil, is moderately toxic. Therefore, in terms of the provisions under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, mustard/rapeseed oil obtained by solvent extraction shall be supplied for human consumption only if it is refined.

(c) to (e) . If the use of solvent extracted mustard/rapeseed oil is allowed, a quantity of about 10,000 MT may be available for vanaspati manufacture which is too meagre to have any impact on the prices of vanaspati.

Organization of Krishi Vigyan Mela

2981. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had organised Krishi Vigyan Mela in Delhi recently ;

(b) if so, number of farmers invited from different States, State-wise ;

(c) whether Government plan to have such melas and training centres in the rural areas also ;

(d) the steps being taken to train and educate the farmers about biogas plants, solar cells and solar cookers ;

(e) whether any such training centre or Krishi Mela is going to be organised in North Bengal ;

(f) if so, by what time and details thereof ; and

(g) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela was held at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi from 13th to 15th March, 1985,