

**Production of Quality/Certified Seeds**

4497. DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the production and distribution of quality/certified seeds and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the annual estimated requirement of seeds for various crops in the country and the year by which the present producing agencies will be able to achieve this target;

(c) the percentage increase in productivity of these seeds; and

(d) whether Government propose to encourage production and sale of seeds by private traders and farmers also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been an increase in the production and distribution of certified/quality seeds during the last three years as under:-

Year	(Qty. in lakh quintal)	
	Production	Distribution
1982-83	36.61	42.06
1983-84	41.26	44.97
1984-85	49.97	48.46

(b) Based on the recommended seed replacement rate, the annual estimated requirement of certified/quality seeds has been worked out at 54.61 lakh quintals for 1985-86 and 60 lakh quintals for 1986-87. By and large, the seed requirement of all the crops are fully met by the present seed producing agencies except in case of pulses and oil-seeds. Efforts are being made to meet the requirement during the next 2-3 years.

(c) Certified/quality seeds is one of the important factors which determines productivity. However, no separate figures can be worked out to indicate the percentage increase in productivity of these seeds.

(d) Yes, Sir.

**Fall in Banana Crop**

4498. SHRI. A. J. V. B. MAHESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the banana crop has come down in recent years;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to encourage the banana growers and to support them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Production of banana has gone up from 4579.8 thousand tonnes in 1981-82 to 4647.7 thousand tonnes in 1983-84. However, there is a slight decline in production in 1984-85, being 4626.2 thousand tonnes.

(b) and (c). The State Governments are encouraging cultivation of banana by supplying planting material, financial assistance and providing extension service for higher production. Central Government is also implementing a scheme of Package Programme on Banana in Goa. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has taken up a research scheme 'All India Coordinated Fruit Improvement Project' which includes banana among other crops to evolve suitable agro-techniques for increasing productivity. It has also been decided to set up a National Centre on banana by ICAR during VII Plan.

T. B. Hospital at Dhuliyán (West Bengal)

4499. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the laying of foundation of a T. B. Hospital was to be held at Dhuliyán, district Murshidabad, west Bengal on February 8, 1986;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the foundation has not been laid at Dhuliyán, the site selected long ago on the date fixed for the purpose;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and