

by promotion of Assistant Executive Engineers and Assistant Engineers. The vacancies meant for the former cannot be filled by the latter, on a regular basis. Hence, when an Assistant Executive Engineer is available for promotion within his quota but his length of service is marginally less than what has been prescribed for eligibility, then this is relaxed. However, if no such officer is available or the relaxation involved is very large the vacancy is filled up, on *ad-hoc* basis, by the promotion of an Assistant Engineer.

Self-sufficiency in Cotton, Oilseeds and Pulses

133. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA:

SHRI K. MALLANNA:

SHRI S. S. SOMANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) what specific steps Government have taken or propose to take to make the country self-supporting in cotton, oilseeds and the pulses;

(b) what progress has been made in each State towards achieving the self-sufficiency in the aforesaid items;

(c) whether Government have provided any subsidy or any other help to the State Governments to achieve the self-sufficiency;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the present production of the aforesaid items and what is the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) The following steps have been taken by the Government

to raise the production of cotton, oilseeds and pulses so as to minimise the gap between their demand and supply:—

1. Raising the productivity per hectare both in irrigated and un-irrigated areas through rapid spread of improved technology as well as high yielding hybrids of cottons.

2. Increasing the area under irrigated crops by exploiting the potential under the command of new irrigation projects.

3. Strengthening the seed production programme by augmenting the supply of pure seed.

4. Stepping up the coverage by plant protection measures particularly by aerial spraying over large areas, wherever feasible.

5. Fixation of support prices and making arrangements for the purchase of the produce at those prices.

6. Extension of area under non-traditional oilseed crops, like, sunflower and soybean.

7. Establishment of centres for voluntary grading of kapas so as to enable the farmers to obtain better prices for their cotton commensurate with the quality.

8. Free supply of rhizobial culture to the farmers for use on pulse crops.

(b) The States are making efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in the aforesaid items by implementing measures on the lines indicated above. Since a special drive has been launched only during 1977-78 for increasing the production of cotton, oilseeds and pulses, it is too early to assess the impact of the special measures undertaken during the current year. A review of the progress made in respect of achieving increased production of these crops will be undertaken at the end of the crop season and further strengthening of the measures, wherever necessary, will be undertaken.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Provision of the following subsidies has been made under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes sanctioned for raising the production of cotton, oilseeds and pulses during 1977-78:—

Cotton:

1. *Seeds:* Rs. 150/- per quintal of certified cotton seed.
2. *Demonstrations:* Rs. 200—Rs. 800/- per hectare.
3. *Plant Protection equipment:* 25 per cent on the cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 200/- per individual.
4. *Aerial spraying:* Operational changes @Rs. 10/- per acre for small and marginal farmers and Rs. 7/- per acre for other farmers.
5. *Kapas Grading Centres:* Rs. 50,000 for establishment of each grading centre to meet the cost on staff and special grading equipment.

Oilseeds:

1. Intensive Oilseeds Development Programme:

(i) *Seed production:* For a unit area of 40,000 hectares, Rs. 22,000/- each for the production of Nucleus and Foundation seed on 2 and 16 hectares respectively. Premium of Rs. 30/- per quintal for transport, handling, and processing of certified seed. Alternatively, a subsidy to the extent of Rs. 150/- per quintal is available on the cost of certified seed at source of production i.e., National Seed Corporation/State Farms Corporation of India/State Seed Corporation in the case of groundnut.

(ii) *Demonstrations:* Rs. 125/- per hectare.

(iii) *Plant Protection:* For a unit area of 40,000 hectares a provision of Rs. 1 lakh has been made to be

spent on the purchase of power and hand-operated equipment (Rs. 75,000) and transactional losses on plant protection chemicals (Rs. 25,000). In the case of rapeseed and mustard, the provision of Rs. 1 lakh can alternatively be used by the States to meet 25 per cent cost of plant protection chemicals and 50 per cent operational cost.

(iv) *Minikits:* Free of cost for popularising the use of new oilseed crops/varieties.

2. Extension of Oilseeds to New Irrigation Areas:

The same as indicated above under Intensive Oilseeds development Programme excepting that the subsidy for demonstrations is @Rs. 200/- per hectare.

3. Sunflower Development.

Seed: Rs. 30/- per quintal on account of premium to farmers, processing, grading, handling and transport charges.

Demonstrations: Rs. 300/- per hectare.

Minikits: Free of cost during the first year of the implementation of the Scheme.

Soybean Development.

Seed: Rs. 22,000/- for organising nucleus and foundation seed production for a unit area of 7,000 hectares.

Demonstrations: Rs. 500/- per hectare.

Minikits: Free of cost in the first year of the implementation of the scheme and thereafter for new varieties.

Pulses:

Demonstrations: Rs. 275/- per hectare.

Seed: Breeder seed Rs. 350 per ha.
Foundation seed Rs. 150 per ha.
Certified seed Rs. 1 per kg.

Plant Protection: 25 per cent on cost of chemicals @ Rs. 5.15 per ha. depending upon the chemical used. 50 per cent cost of equipment (sprayers dusters).

Rhizobial culture: Rs. 1 lakh each year for production of cultures in the laboratories and the cultures are being supplied free of cost to the farmers.

Plant protection operational charges: Rs. 12.50 per ha.

New Central Sector Scheme for production of quality seeds of pulses:

Breeder's seed production

	per quintal
Mong. urd and and cowpea	Rs. 500/-
Lentil	Rs. 350/-
Gram and arhar	Rs. 300/-
Peas	Rs. 200/-

Foundation seed production: Rs. 150/- per quintal.

Certified seed production: Rs. 150/- per quintal.

Training of Extension workers: An amount of Rs. 50,000 has been earmarked during 1977-78 for training of extension workers @Rs. 6,000 per training.

(e) The production of cotton, oil-seeds and pulses during the year 1976-77 was estimated to be 57.81 lakh bales, 78.31 tonnes and 112.08 lakh tonnes respectively. Firm estimates of production of these crops during 1977-78 are not yet available.

Cost of F.C.I. operations

134. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) what specific steps have been taken by the Government to cut cost of F.C.I. operation; and

(b) how much subsidy has been paid by the Government so far to F.C.I.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) The handling cost of the Food Corporation of India for procurement, storage, movement and distribution of foodgrains consists of market fee, purchase/sales tax, gunny cost, State Government administrative charges, mandi labour, forwarding charges, freight, interest, establishment charges, storage and transit loss and godown charges. A large portion of these charges such as market fee, commission payable to the agencies, purchase/sales tax, gunny cost, freight etc. is either statutory or obligatory in nature and there is very little scope of any reduction in costs. These charges are, however, being constantly kept under review so as to effect economy and maximum efficiency. In certain specific areas like cash management, administrative post etc. the Corporation has been able to effect economy.

(b) The Food Corporation of India has received Rs. 1752.25 crores by way of reimbursement, the difference between the economic cost of handling foodgrains procured and the central issue price including cost of maintaining buffer stocks.

Committee to determine the authority to administer land and its leases in Delhi

135. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a number of authorities which administer land and its leases in Delhi;

(b) if so, the names thereof and the action being taken by Government to bring all the land under one administration;

(c) whether Government have set up a Committee of 8 persons to examine the matter; and