

### **Evaluation Report on Food for Work Programme**

1630. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evaluated the performances of 'Food for Work' schemes in different States for the year 1979-80; and

(b) if so, the essential features of the evaluation report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes Sir, The implementation of Food for Work Programme in 10 major States was evaluated by the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission last year.

(b) A statement giving in short the broad findings of the evaluation study is enclosed.

#### **Statement**

##### *Broad Findings*

##### *1. Planning and administration of the Programme*

(i) State level Steering Committees were formed in all the States. However, the meetings were not held as frequently as required in some States.

(ii) Out of 20 district, district level Steering Committees were formed specifically only in 7 districts. In other districts the already existing district level committees performed the functions.

(iii) In the matter of planning and implementation wherever the village panchayats were fully involved, the projects were planned generally according to the needs of the village community. The technical departments worked in isolation from other departments and utilised foodgrains for continuing their normal activities. There is need for coordination in the

selection of projects, in fixing priorities and in progress reporting at district level.

(iv) The method of registration of labourers for employment was found only in 5 districts. In the rest 15 districts, no specific method of registration for selection of workers was followed.

(v) In 8 districts certain difficulties were reported in planning and implementation of the programme. For example, some of these difficulties related to lack of planning and co-ordination between various departments, non-availability of timely supply of foodgrains, from FCI, non-cooperation of local people, lack of availability of implements and technical know-how etc. Timely and uninterrupted supply would reduce malpractices in distribution of foodgrains to wage earners.

(vi) No financial limits are fixed in most of the States in undertaking the various works. However, limits are fixed for sanction by officials at various levels. Difficulties were, therefore, experienced in getting the financial sanctions from higher levels. To avoid reference for sanction by higher level officials panchayats either created assets, which did not conform or standard norms or they fragmented the projects and treated each fragment as a separate project. It is, therefore, desirable to streamline the procedure for speedy sanction of projects.

##### *2. Progress of the Programme*

(i) Foodgrains released varied from 469 tonnes in Amreli to 27,740 tonnes in Jaipur district during 1978-79, Utilisation ranged from 51.6 per cent to 100 per cent. Out of 20 districts, utilisation was 100 per cent in 11 districts.

(ii) Additional employment generated through the Food for Work Programme during 1978-79 over the previous year per selected household of the sample villages varied from 3

mandays to 167 mandays. The extent of additional employment generated over the last year ranged from 0.7 per cent to 76.1 per cent. The overall percentage increase in employment for all the selected beneficiaries in the villages investigated was 10.9.

(iii) Additional income generated during 1978-79 over the previous year in the sample villages varied from Rs. 23 to Rs. 15.69 per selected household. The extent of additional income generated over the last year ranged from 1.4 per cent to 97 per cent. The overall percentage increase for all the selected households in the villages was 17.7.

(iv) Various types of community assets were created under the programme some of which were however, not durable, for example, construction of link roads and embankment work. In regard to creation of individual assets, the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction may examine such cases in the light of the policy of the Planning Commission.

(v) 3.7 lakh mandays employment was created in the selected villages. In individual district this ranged from 535 mandays in Raisen (Madhya Pradesh) to 46879 mandays in Bhojpur (Bihar).

(vi) Community assets worth Rs. 24 lakhs were created during 1978-79 in the selected villages.

(vii) Both Plan and non-Plan works were taken up under the programme.

(viii) In Bihar, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh there was no agency for maintenance of link roads.

### 3. Difficulties and Malpractices

(i) Delays in supply and lack of storage facilities were reported in 5 States.

(ii) Payment of wages fully in cash was reported in some States

leading to selling of the foodgrains in the open market by contractors.

(iii) Muster rolls were reported to have been inflated in some selected villages by entering fictitious names both by contractors and the panchayats.

(iv) *Ex-gratia* payment was demanded by supervisory staff in two States at the time of distribution of foodgrains to the beneficiaries. Government agencies and panchayats in two States converted foodgrains into cash for meeting the cost of construction works such as huts, school buildings, dispensaries, panchayat ghar, etc.

(v) The contractors indulged in selling part of foodgrains in open market.

(vi) Less payment of wages was reported from two districts.

(vii) Beneficiaries had to sell out coupons due to delay in supply of foodgrains.

(viii) Foodgrains were utilised for purchase of crockery and furniture and upkeep of Government buildings in one State.

### 4. Impact of the Programme

(i) In 13 districts out of 20, there was no significant impact on wages. However, in 7 districts there was a positive impact.

(ii) This programme stabilised foodgrains prices (wheat and rice) in 8 districts out of 20 selected. In 6 districts, local wheat prices fell marginally.

(iii) There was favourable impact on life and living conditions of the village community in terms of employment and income. Majority of beneficiaries, however, reported that these benefits were only short-term and seasonal.

### 5. Suggestions for future

(i) Empty gunny bags at present being retained by the distributing agencies such as contractors, fair price shops etc.; should be handed over to the village panchayat for augmenting their resources.

(ii) Efforts should be made to provide foodgrains preferred by the beneficiaries.

(iii) Looking to the preference of the beneficiaries, the wages should be paid partly in cash and partly in kind.

(iv) Majority of the beneficiaries preferred weekly payments. As such, efforts should be made to make weekly and timely payments in all the areas.

(v) It appears that the inspecting and monitoring arrangements at the Centre for effectively supervising the Food for Work Programme and its implementation are rather weak. Supervision, therefore, needs to be strengthened to avoid creation of non-durable assets.

(vi) There is need for further research and evaluation on its short and long-term benefits to various sections of rural population.

### Difficulties of Cocoa Cultivator

1631. SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Cocoa cultivators in the country especially in Kerala are in trouble to get an outlet to sell their produce at reasonable rates;

(b) whether the sole buying agency that controls the price of raw cocoa is Cadbury India Limited which is a multinational firm;

(c) whether with all the propaganda and publicity to cultivate more cocoa, the Government did not find a market for the growers; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The Government have received a representation that the cocoa cultivators are realising lower prices than last year.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Kerala State Marketing Co-operative Federation is already purchasing cocoa beans from cocoa growers. Information regarding production and marketing arrangements have been called from the State Governments, and action, if any, will be taken on receipt of it.

### Loss due to Fire in F.C.I. Godown in Gaya

1632. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been loss due to fire in the godown of the Food Corporation of India in Gaya (Bihar) in the last week of April, 1980; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There was incidence of fire in CAP (Cover and Plinth) storage at Panchananpur, Gaya, Bihar on 28-4-1980. All out efforts were made by the staff and labour present at the location to bring the fire under control but due to strong winds and shortage of water, the fire spread fast affecting a number of wheat stacks. The help of the local fire brigade from Gaya which is about 15 km from the CAP complex was sought and on the intervention of District Administration army authorities also came