

STATEMENT III**Principal recommendations of the Task Force**

1. The present overlapping between the Drought Prone Areas Programme and the Desert Development Programme, which have broadly similar objectives, should be terminated. The Desert Development Programme should operate as a single programme in such cases (excepting Kutch where the DPAP should operate).

The objectives of the DPAP should be as follows:—

- (a) promoting a more productive dryland agriculture on the basis of the soil-water-climate resource of the area;
 - (b) development and productive use of the water resources of the area;
 - (c) soil and moisture conservation including promotion of proper land use practices;
 - (d) afforestation including farm forestry; and
 - (e) livestock development including development of pasture and fodder resources.
3. There should be regular inter-disciplinary studies to determine the water budget of each area and a programme for the most productive cropping system should be developed. Research and extension efforts should be dovetailed into each other in every such exercise.

4. Greater emphasis needs to be placed on increasing the productivity of pasture areas and in arresting the decline in the area under pasture.

5. In addition to afforestation in public land, greater attention needs to be paid to development of afforestation in marginal and sub-marginal land belonging to individuals. Forestry research in cold deserts should be stepped up.

6. Stabilisation of sanddunes is important in desert areas. Where the dune areas are under private ownership, the land should be acquired by the Government.

7. Support for dairy development should preferably relate to grass-root level activities and assistance for processing, transportation and marketing should be scaled down.

8. Priority should be given to harvesting of rainwater and exploiting it to the maximum advantage. Subsidies for dugwells should be continued.

9. Utilisation of the irrigation potential should be stepped up.

10. Soil conservation should continue to be a priority programme but project funds should not be used for giving loans. A proper land use policy should be developed.

11. There should be closer linkage among difficult development programme in the rural sector.

12. There should be exclusive arrangements for implementing the DPAP and DDP in different districts.

13. There should be regular evaluation of (a) specific programme activities in different projects, and (b) the entire programme in a project by State Government. At the State level, implementation should be regularly monitored and efforts made to quantify achievements in different sectors. State Governments should constitute teams of experienced personnel of the relevant disciplines to formulate schemes for different project areas and spell out the details of implementation.

14. Allocations under desert development programme should be relateable to the geographical area. Under the DPAP however, allocations may continue to be made at the rate of Rs. 15 lakhs per block. The Expenditure should continue to be shared equally between the Union and State Governments.

Production and Marketing of Pulses and Edible Oil

3333. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in all the Blocks in the country the production strategy for pulses and oilseeds as enumerated in Point No. 2 of the New 20-Point has been introduced; and

(b) the steps being taken to restructure the marketing of oilseeds and vegetable oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The strategy for increasing the production of Pulses and Oilseeds as enumerated in Point No. 2 of the New 20-Point Programme was discussed in detail in the National Workshop on Agricultural Development in the context of Prime Minister's New 20 Point Programme and Productivity Year 1982. In this workshop State Governments were urged to extend cultivation of oilseeds and pulses in all available and potential lands using suitable location-specific technology for dry-land areas and also in the commands of irrigation projects where potential for these crops exists. The Centrally Sponsored Schemes for increasing production of oilseeds and pulses being implemented to supplement the efforts of the State Governments have also been reoriented in view of the New 20-Point Programme.

(b) The Government has been announcing minimum support prices for groundnut, soybean and sunflower. NAFED has been directed to purchase these oilseeds whenever the prices fall below the support prices.

A project for restructuring edible oil and oilseed production and marketing is being implemented by the National Dairy Development Board. It aims at increasing the production of oilseeds and increasing the return to the farmers through better processing and marketing etc. on cooperative principles. Besides, imported vegetable oils are being allocated to:

(i) States/UTs for distribution under public distribution system through Fair Price Shops/Cooperative outlets; and

(ii) Vanaspati manufacturers for use in the production of vanaspati.

Self-Sufficiency in Foodgrain Production

3334. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the steps taken or

proposed to be taken to make agriculture self-paying and self-supporting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): Maximisation of productivity and production per unit of production resources as well as ensuring remunerative prices for the agricultural produce are the main approaches adopted by the Government to make agriculture self-paying and self-supporting. Expansion of infrastructure including research extension and irrigation, production and distribution of improved, high-yielding and disease/drought resistant varieties of seeds, soil conservation, multiple cropping, larger supplies of inputs like fertilizers and credit are among the programme undertaken by the Government to raise agricultural production and productivity. Subsidies are being provided to the weaker sections of the farming community to enable them to improve their production base and make their economy viable.

Storm Water Drain Schemes for Nirman Vihar

3335. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to refer to reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 115 on 24 August, 1981 regarding zonal plan for storm water drains in Trans-Yamuna residential colonies, Delhi and state:

(a) whether the schemes for storm water drain for the Zones comprising Nirman Vihar in the Trans-Yamuna Area has been approved; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the abnormal delay in completion of the Schemes?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Delhi Development Authority have reported that the delay is mainly due to abnormal unauthorised and haphazard construction in the area.