

Installed Capacity of Cattle Feed Plants

2239. SHRI HARISH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question No. 159 on 4 October, 1982 regarding cattle feed production and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the existing cattle feed plants set up by the N.D.D.B. are grossly unutilised and if so, the reasons for blocking further finance therein ; and

(b) the installed capacity of cattle feed plants in the country and actual throughout, year-wise for the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R.V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Out of the cattle feed plants set up under operation Flood Programme, 8 were commissioned in the year 1981 and 1982. The average capacity utilisation of these plants in March, 1982 was 54%.

The demand for balanced cattle feed generally goes down with the onset of monsoon season when plenty of grass is available.

Since the capacity of the plants is likely to be fully utilised in the coming years, it is not considered necessary to stop further investments on the cattle feed plants.

(b) No authentic figures are available regarding actual production and installed capacity of many of the feed manufacturing plants in the country.

Enhancing per-capita availability of Pulses

2240. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita availability of pulses per day during the last three years separately ; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to increase availability of pulses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R.V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The per capita net availability of pulses per day during each of the last three years is indicated below:

Year	Per capita net availability of pulses (Grams per day)
1979	44.7
1980	30.9
1981	39.2 (P)

P—Provisional

(b) Government of India is implementing central and centrally sponsored programmes for increasing yield and production of pulses with a view to supplementing the similar programmes of the State Governments. Efforts under these programmes are being concentrated in potential areas and central assistance is being made available to the State Governments on a liberal scale for taking up, among others, demonstrations, production and distribution of quality seeds, integrated pest management etc. Besides these, special measures to step up yield and production of pulses have also been undertaken by the Government under the Productivity Year 1982 and the New 20-Point Programme. The measures, inter-alia, include use of Phosphatic fertiliser, expansion of area under short duration varieties as catch-crop and inter-cropping both under irrigated and unirrigated conditions.

In addition to the above measures, protection against fall in prices of pulses through price support operations is also being provided.