

ties do give better yields in the farmers' field, under good management as compared to the national average of per hectare productivity. The new varieties have a high yield potential which could be exploited through good management practices.

Insecure Position in Food Front

1330. SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is insecure in food front as reflected by heavy imports in foodgrains, milk and oilseeds etc ;

(b) whether it is in national interest to import without sufficient storage space leading to heavy storage losses ;

(c) whether it is in national interest to import as gift milk products which makes our political options difficult ;

(d) whether Government are aware that the new technology is not scale-neutral as propounded by Dairy Board, and

(e) whether Government are aware of studies which show that small and marginal farmers virtually lose heavily on each litre of milk produced ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. Marginal import of foodgrains was considered necessary to augment the buffer stocks in the wake of heavy pressure on the public distribution system because of drought conditions in several parts of the country in 1982-83. Commercial import of skim milk powder was discontinued from 1975-76. There is no import of oil seeds on Government account.

(b) Storage capacity available with Food Corporation of India is adequate to meet the requirement of current stock levels.

(c) Currently gift supplies of skim milk powder and butter oil are being received from European Economic Community (EEC) for implementation of Operation Flood II Project.

(d) Dairy processing is not scale neutral and its economic viability requires certain minimum level of operational size.

(e) Government are not aware of any such studies having been conducted.

Appointment of Forest Preservation Commission

1331. SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to incisive investigation concerning vandalism in the forests due to lax enforcement of law and other rampant cor-

ruption given in illustrated Weekly dated 29, January, 1984 ;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Himalayas catchment area in Garhwal and Himachal Pradesh is an ecologically sensitive area and if so, the steps taken to safeguard these areas ; and

(c) whether Government propose to appoint a high powered Forest Preservation Commission to safeguard and multiply our forest ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes Sir. Following are the important steps taken to safeguard such areas :

(i) Enactment of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 of the Central Government.

(ii) Enhanced protection measures to conserve forest resources including suitable legislation by state government such as Uttar Pradesh Gramin Aur Parvatiya Chetra Me Vriksh Sanrankshan Adhiniyam 1976, enacted by Govt. of U.P. etc.

(iii) Hill States have been considered special areas for Central assistance, by the Planning Commission. The total plan outlay for hill areas has gone up from Rs. 447 crores for Vth Five Year Plan to Rs. 3915 crores in VIth Five Year Plan.

(iv) Undertaking the following afforestation and soil conservation measures in the area :

1. Soil Conservation in the catchments of the river valley projects.
2. Integrated watershed management in catchments of flood prone rivers.
3. Soil, water and tree conservation in the Himalayas.
4. Adoption of improved land use practices.
5. Himalayan watershed management project in Uttar Pradesh.
6. Social Forestry, including Rural Fuelwood plantations, and
7. Laying down norms for management of forests.

(c) No Sir, as there are already following bodies which advise the Government on Forest Preservation and afforestation :

1. Central Board of Forestry.
2. Central Forestry Commission
3. National Land Board
4. National Land Resources Conservation and Development Commission.

Development of Gur From Jowar Stem

1332. SHRI H.N. BAHUGUNA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state ;