

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, August 12, 1997/Shravana 21, 1919 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Demand and Production of Pulses

*281. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the position of the demand and supply of pulses at present;

(b) the estimated demand of pulses in the country by 2000 A.D.;

(c) the expected production of pulses by them; and

(d) the steps being taken to increase the production of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Working Group on Demand & Supply Projections of Agricultural commodities and Improvement of Agricultural Statistics for the Formulation of 9th Five Year Plan has estimated the requirement of pulses for 1996-97 at 15.30 million tonnes based on the normative requirement as recommended by the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad and at 15.50 million tonnes based on the behaviouristic approach on GDP growth rate of 7%. The domestic and total availability of pulses during 1996-97 are as under:

(Million tonnes)	
Production	— 14.852
Imports	— 0.532 (value Rs. 731.76 crore)
Export	— (-) 0.054
Demand	— 15.30
Availability	— 15.33

(b) and (c) The Working Group has estimated the production requirement of pulses for the year 2001-02 at 17.20 million tonnes based on the normative requirement and at 19.50 million tonnes based on the behaviouristic approach at GDP growth rate of 7%. The most likely supply projections of pulses made by the Working Group for the year 2001-02 are 17.50 million tonnes (Annexure-I).

(d) The productivity of pulses in India is lower than the level of world productivity (Annexure-II). It is, therefore, proposed to:

(A) To enhance productivity by:—

- (i) Use of improved seeds of high yielding varieties
- (ii) Balanced use of nutrients.
- (iii) Application of sulphur.
- (iv) Integrated Pest Management.
- (v) Use of Sprinkler Mode of Irrigation.

(B) To increase area through inter-cropping and sequence cropping in addition to prevalent sole cropping

Annexure I

Requirement of Pulses for 2001-02 as assessed by the Working Group on Demand & Supply Projections of Agricultural Commodities and Improvement of Agricultural Statistics for the formulation of Ninth Five Year Plan

Approach	Consumption Requirement	Production Requirement
Normative, as recommended by NIN, Hyderabad, at 14.6 kg/capita/year	13.90	17.20
Behaviouristic at GDP growth rate of 7% at 16 kg/capita/year	16.25	19.50

(Million Tonnes)

Annexure II*The Productivity of Pulses in Major Pulse Growing Countries (1995)*

(Kgs./per hectare)

Countries	Total Pulses	Dry Peas	Chick Peas	Lentils
India	595	906	738	647
China	1211	1062	1333	1243
France	4709	4795	—	1692
Australia	1164	1329	1246	2125
Canada	1674	1839	—	1315
Turkey	967	2600	948	976
U.S.A	1915	3224	—	1543
Ukraine	1412	1417	—	—
Russian Fed.	831	836	—	513
Mexico	664	1000	2000	—
Myanmar	659	645	634	286
Ethopia	892	882	700	708
Pakistan	573	543	525	508
Iran	674	—	523	629
Bangladesh	750	625	727	810
Nepal	609	—	705	629
Syria	1009	1438	694	1230
World	796	1513	722	839

Source: FAO Production year book-1995

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, what happened to the Women's Bill? We will not let the House go on without hearing anything about the Women's Bill. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : We also support her. We want to know about the fate of the Women's Bill ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, why Women's Reservation Bill is not introduced till now? ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, regarding this, there was a promise that on the 11th and 12th, this Bill would be taken up for discussion. ... (Interruptions) The BJP is prepared for this; the Congress Party is prepared for this; and we are prepared for this. What is the hurdle? ... (Interruptions) The majority of the House is in favour of this Bill. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We will not allow the House go on without hearing anything about this Bill. ... (Interruptions) Let there be a voting on this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Why the Govt. is making delay? ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is listed in today's Revised List of Business.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Yes. It has been listed as Item No. 20 which means that it would not come up for discussion at all. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can raise this issue after the Question Hour. During the Question Hour, no such thing is allowed.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : No, Sir. We consider this Bill as a very important Bill. How long can we wait for this? We cannot wait further. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today Question Hour will not take place. ... (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all the discussion on the questions should take place. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Sir, today's first Question pertains to agriculture—production of pulses, etc. In India, 90 per cent of the population are agriculturists. So, the Question Hour should be allowed to be taken up. If they object now, it means that they are against agriculture. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This issue can be raised after the Question Hour and not now.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We can take it up after the question Hour. Please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : We are with you ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seats. We can take it up after the Question Hour.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : If that be so, this Bill should be taken up for discussion immediately after the Question Hour. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, what is your ruling? Will this Bill be taken up first, immediately after the Question Hour? ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do you not want the zero Hour?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we demand that Item No. 20 of today's agenda should be taken up first, after the Question Hour. ... (Interruptions) you may take the sense of the House as to whether the House wants Item No. 20 to be taken up first or not. We want to

know whether after Question Hour, this item will be taken up first or not. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : You take the sense of the House at that time. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will see as to what can be done after the Question Hour. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please maintain decorum. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Silence please.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : To my Starred Question, the Minister has replied about the Working Group on Demand and Supply Projections. But the main thrust of my question is, for the last one decade, demand and supply of pulse production is very much widening. In 1950, the production of pulses in our country was more than eight million tonnes. In 1996, its production was only 14 million tonnes. According to the World Health Organisation, the requirement per capita in our country in 1960 was 69 grams but now, it has reduced to 34 grams. On what basis has the hon. Minister given the reply on the Working Group on Demand and Supply Projections? Pulse is a low molecule protein which imbibes and the maximum population in India, which is not a developed country, requires pulse protein. According to his previous reply in Parliament, the National Pulse Development Project had been introduced. On this basis, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when it was introduced. And what is the benefit of it? It is because the poor, marginal and small farmers take to pulse cultivation in our country.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The point is, at present whatever help possible is given to all. So far, we have not yet demarcated small and marginal farmers for this project. I am doing so far other things. But so far as this is concerned, we have not done it. About whatever we are doing, I have enumerated them as five points and the hon. Member can see them. I do not think I should repeat them.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : They have mentioned about the Working Group. What were the criteria for the research work done by the National Institute of Nutrition at Hyderabad? It is because the target is fixed by the National Institute of Nutrition.

Secondly, the Minister is a very-very dynamic person. So, as *dal* or pulse is required throughout our country, I

want to know from him whether he has instituted any expert committee comprising of agriculturists, agro-economists and geologists to demarcate the zones according to agro-climatic conditions and geo-physical conditions in our country so that the actual requirement of pulses in our country can be ascertained. If the production is less, will it be substituted by import or by high-yielding variety of *dal* or pulses which can be established in different agricultural universities? At the same time, Green Revolution can be replaced by Yellow Revolution because this is the most important thing as requirement of pulses is much more in our country, as we are a developing country.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : It is true that the poor man's only protein diet is *dal*. So, we must concentrate on that. I may inform the hon. Member that the areas where we can produce *dal* have already been identified.

The scientists groups and other agricultural experts have already done this research. If the hon. Member wants, I can give the details also later on, because that will take a lot of time now. What *dal* will be suitable for that area, how to increase the production and productivity, how to have inter-cropping, all these things have already been worked out.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I would like to know whether any funds has been earmarked to do research and development in this area during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, there are certain pests, and science has not yet evolved any pesticide for them. That is lacking in our research. That is only one of the points. The other points are, sequence of crops, inter-cropping in a particular area, irrigation facilities like drip irrigation etc. All these details are there, and if the hon. Member wants, I can give him the details area-wise also.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Is the hon. Minister satisfied with the research and development work and is he confident that by this pulses requirement of the country would be fulfilled? If he is not, why should he not associate the agricultural universities also in this super-specialised field of agriculture so that they can do new research work in that Institute for the benefit of the people?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, I have already stated that areas have already been identified and the programmes are also there. What is lacking is the funds.

...(Interruptions) The Union Government is short of funds. If you bring a plenty of funds, I will get it done.

I am trying to ascertain the position. As of today, funds are not there; all other things are there, and the cooperation of the State Governments is also required.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after the reply of the hon'ble Minister, I was also under the impression that there was no such pesticide which could kill the pests. I was surprised when the scientists of Rajasthan told me that they are not in a position to diagnose the disease which is found in the Masur pulse area of Sangod Tehsil of my constituency. But, today I am satisfied by the reply given by the hon. Minister that in fact no such pesticide is made till now. Will you please send a special team in Sangod Tehsil of my constituency? 30 years ago good variety of Masur pulse was produced there but there is no production of the pulse there for the last three-four years. Because the scientists are of the opinion that the remedy is to change the crop, please reply as to what we should do? Should we change the pattern or you will send a special Central team so that the production of Masur pulse will start again and a problem facing the country could be solved? Please only clearly.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is more difficulty in relation to production of Gram. A lot of scientific research has been done in the field of Masur. As far as the constituency or the area of the hon. member is concerned, we are ready to send a team, but you should inform us well in time. Inform us when there is season of Masur pulse or inform when the diseases has infected the crop. We will send a special demonstration team, there which will work there.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : The reply given by the hon. Minister is not satisfactory and it is of stereotype. The reason for this is that we give reply in the House as given to us by the bureaucracy. You have told us many things, but information with regard to improve the pulse production is not given in the awareness camps organized by KRIBHCO, IFFCO, Agriculture Department or Agriculture University. He has talked about the identification of every State.

There are two things, one is that there is consumption of different variety of pulse in every State and the other is that there is production commensurate with the consumption. Whether the Government propose to grow pulses or to give subsidy for the production in those areas? Because no pulse is available for less than Rs. 25-30 per kg. to the poor. Do not talk about protein, the situation is how to eat rice or how to eat chapati.

Democracy is meaningless if we are not in a position to provide grain and a pulse to the masses on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of our Independence. I would like the hon. Minister to announce that atleast one variety of pulse as per the demand of the State will be provided at subsidized rates. Only then this Golden Jubilee of our freedom will have any meaning.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, right now I cannot give any assurance about the subsidy. That is a separate thing, which is done after making a study. Subsidy can not be provided merely by announcing here. So far as the question, whether research work is taking place or not, is concerned, I have already said that scientific research is taking place in Kanpur and many other areas. We will also arrange for live demonstration and if any State Government would like to increase pulse production, we are ready to provide special aid so that we can get rid of import. So, the hon. Members should send us the information through their State Government. We are ready to help. But I am not ready to give any assurance with regard to subsidy.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Thank you, Sir. The development of consumption pattern is that we start with small millets, and then, jowar and bajra. As you grow your level of income, you move to rice and wheat. Our Green Revolution was meant for the rich. There was some explosion in production in the case of rice and wheat. After you have satisfied the poor men, they also move from small millets, jowar and bajra to rice and wheat. After that, they try to go to pulses. That is why it has been stated that on the basis of consumption expenditure, the anticipated growth rate is seven percent. It was poor man's protein long time back. It has ceased to be a poor man's protein because poor man does not have the purchasing power to buy at that price.

The question of subsidy has been correctly raised. Why do you not use the economic instrument? Go to the market, give high price to the farmers higher than normally available for pulses. They may shift cultivation to pulses. If that is there, the requirement of subsidy for poor man will arise. It is this question that he has to answer. We thought of Green Revolution. It is very welcome. We reduced our dependency on PL-480. But now is it true that the per capita availability is coming down and not enough funds for research and implementation or whatever the research output, is not taking place? For that, the Government, as a whole, has to take the responsibility. Would he agree?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, so far as pulses are concerned, it is not in India only. Indian may have

less funds. The other countries in the world have sufficient funds. They are also not making any advancement.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Their productivity is already double that of yours.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I am coming to that. The productivity is a separate thing. The hon. Member is so impatient. So far as pests are concerned, how are these to be controlled? There are certain things.

Science has not yet developed so much. That is why, it is not the question of funds alone. However, if more funds are available, I would provide the funds.

With regard to the second part of your question, that is, pulses being the poor man's proteins, subsidy should be provided to it. I would like to submit that if there is a distress sale for farmers then we begin purchasing for them and a minimum price is fixed. So far as subsidy for consumption is concerned. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It should be done against the minimum price so that you can sell it.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I support the idea of having minimum prices. It is done whenever there is a distress sale.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : In order to take a shift to pulses, the Government would have to raise the purchasing prices to a higher level so that they shift to pulses.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : That is only one aspect of the problem. If we raise it that way then its effect would be on another crop also and so it would be disadvantageous. We must have a balanced growth for all the crops like rice, wheat and *dal*. Everything should be balanced. Now, if we give such prices for *dal* then people would leave wheat and rice and only *dal* would remain. That would be an unbalanced growth. We must take a balanced view of the whole thing.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Narasinghpur district of Madhya Pradesh is famous for the production of Arhar, Masur and other pulses and there are about 200 mills. I, through you, want to say that there is disparity in the rates. I would like to give an example. Here Arhar was available at the rate of Rs. 1200 and Rs. 1500. Now it has come down to Rs. 750. Hybrid variety of Arhar is also available. Arhar is not considered a full crop in Madhya Pradesh. If the crop is affected by Tushar, the Government do not give any compensation because Arhar is grown there by mixing it with other crops. Therefore, the Government do not

consider it as full crop. Unless the 'Annawari' report is changed and the cultivation of Arhar is considered a full crop, the farmers can not prosper because once the crop is destroyed, the farmers become bankrupt in one stroke.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether by making a change in the Annawari Report at Central level, you will consider Arhar crop as full crop?

Secondly, in the process of fixation of rates, its rate has come down from Rs. 1500 to Rs. 750. Due to this reason the farmers today are not ready to grow anything, whereas there are 200 pulse mills.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : So far as Arhar is concerned a good variety of Arhar is available. Good quality of every crop can not be grown in every area but there is a big potential of Moong, Urad and Arhar in Madhya Pradesh for which help should be provided. So far as price is concerned, market price remains more than our support price. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH : My contention is that when Urad and Arhar are grown together by mixing both these pulses ripens at different times. Arhar ripens in five or five and a half month. The other crop ripens in four or four and a half month and therefore is not considered as full crop.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Inter cropping does not mean growing two variety of pulses in a field. Arhar is grown with Jawar. We grow Moong with it. In this way Arhar and Ground-nut is also grown. Ground-nut is also grown with mustard and sun-flower. It means that there are certain norms which we follow by consulting the scientists. But the farmers do not have the knowledge of these norms. If the farmers came to know the norms of inter-cropping, the productivity as well as the production of pulses can be increased.

[*English*]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, we are proud of our agricultural scientists who made the dream of having self-sufficiency in food in this country a near reality.

Sir, two methods have been suggested by the hon. Minister for increasing production. One is by expanding the area of inter-cropping and the other is by seasonal cropping.

The second one is about the new high-yielding varieties of seeds. I want to know two things specifically in this regard. What are the achievements of the ICAR or the agricultural scientists in the country in developing high-yielding varieties of seeds? Have the field trials of those seeds have been completed? How do the new seeds developed by the ICAR or the agricultural scientists

in the country compare with the traditional seeds as far as productivity is concerned?

Another aspect of the question is that the area of cultivation is decreasing in the country. What the hon. Minister has said in this regard is not correct. Since the year 1951, our production has only doubled. The fact remains that we are importing over five million tonnes of foodgrains at the cost of Rs. 800 crore at the current prices.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please put your question.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : We will have to import four million tonnes. Four million tonnes will mean Rs. 6000 crores to Rs. 7000 crore at current prices, that is, almost 70 per cent of our petroleum imports. We should get more serious about it.

The Land Utilisation Act is being implemented by various State Governments. They are not allowing non-traditional areas for pulse cultivation. Land Utilisation Act is coming in the way of pulse cultivation, wheat cultivation and paddy cultivation. In the State of Kerala, the Parties in Government are destroying the cultivation in the name of Land Utilisation Act. Is the Government aware that the Land Utilisation Act is coming in the way of expanding the area of pulse cultivation? The other thing is about the scientific achievements.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Only one supplementary is allowed.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : I want specific replies to only two aspects. The hon. Minister is very capable. As Girijaji has said, stereotyped answers will not satisfy us. We want specific answers on these two counts. Land Utilisation Act is coming in the way of expanding the area of pulse cultivation. Does the hon. Minister know what is happening in Kerala? They are destroying the crops there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let the Minister reply now.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Some hon. Members have drawn my attention to this aspect of the problem. I have referred the matter to the Chief Minister of the State. I am awaiting his reply. It is a State Subject and I cannot do anything. ...*(Interruptions)* Is my point clear?

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : The Centre does not have any land of its own. It is all cultivated in the States.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Should I repeat it?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is not necessary. Shri Sunderlal Patwa.

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Sir, we have given our question. How much time can be allowed for one question? Question No. 284 will not come if it goes like this. Already half an hour has been taken by this Question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I fully agree with you. But what about the people who want to ask supplementaries. Please sit down.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Only two supplementaries should be allowed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House had agreed that not more than five supplementaries should be allowed.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble minister that whether any such insect has come in the Arhar or other pulses for which no pesticide or insecticides has been developed so far. Whether any efforts have been made for making research in the field of organic pesticides? Sir, organic manure, organic fertilizer will be the fertilizers and pesticides of India in the coming future. You must have noticed that the whole world is going in for these organic things. Have you ever made any efforts to try organic pesticides? Have you paid any attention towards this side?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in our own country there are some institutes which are producing enemy virus. We send these enemy virus in fields. Our scientists produce such chemical virus. I would like to request the hon'ble member to see as to how much quantum of work they are doing. We agree with this fact that the world is going in this direction and people are avoiding the use of high chemical. Your Government is fully aware about this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Question No. 282, Shri Anand Ratna Maurya—Not here. Shri Mahesh Kanodia—He is also not here.

SHRI SHIV RAJ SINGH : Shri Maurya is not here but question is important, so permission may please be granted to the hon'ble member.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If the question is in the name of a person, who is not here no other person can ask the question.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am unable to understand that what are you saying?