

[Sh. Bhisma Deo Dube]

tively. I am happy to know that Government has taken a decision that schemes which have been lying pending will be completed first. There are about half a dozen schemes pending in our area also. Those could have been completed within the stipulated amount but today they will cost about four times of their original estimates. Attention has been paid towards it, it is a thing of happiness and satisfaction.

There is a proposal to establish a flint-glass factory in Banda at the cost of Rs.200 crores. But there is an amazing thing about it that factory is being established at Banda but its offices are being opened at Allahabad. I am not able to understand the rationale behind it. It is just like opening the university in Delhi and establishing Board housing in Amritsar. I am not able to understand as to how the people of that place will be benefitted out of it under such circumstances and how they can be co-opted with them. At least, all the offices should be opened in Banda district so that people of that area can be benefitted.

The main necessities of the country today are agriculture production and to check the increasing population of the country and if we could be able to solve these two problems together effectively, our future problems will lessen very much.

Agriculture production has direct bearing with the provision of water to the fields and in order to providing water, we should give top priority to all our irrigation schemes.

About relief work, I want to say that relief work in connection with drought has since been stopped. When the drought occurs, its effects are felt next year. Now when effects drought are being felt by the people, relief work has been stopped. Relief work should be started immediately so that the drought which has since passed away, people can

be saved from the severity of its effect.

The Budget which has been presented here, is a very balanced Budget and it has been presented under such a conditions which was very difficult to control. I congratulate the Minister of Finance and Hon. Prime Minister for it. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

(National Seeds Policy)

18.06 hrs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we take up half-an-hour discussion. Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil may speak.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): I have given half-an-hour discussion notice about unstarred question No.1783. This question was about National Seeds Policy. In reply to this question, it was stated that there was no such policy and details also could not be furnished and the question does not arise. I have to say with regret that we have not been able to formulate National Seeds Policy so far. Whenever national calamities, natural calamities, drought, floods, cyclone occur, we seeds. The farmers need it. National Seed Corporation was established in 1963 to look after it. But it has been stated in the Government Report that their work is not very satisfactory. During 1985-86, their production was on lower scale and it all happened due to carry over. I am not able to understand as to why the people do not take high quality seeds having good germination potential. There is adulteration in seeds. Recently, 16

zones have been created on the basis of agro-climatic conditions because production of seeds and crops can vary with the different agro-climatic conditions. We need seeds for kharif, Rabi and rest of the crops too.

When the drought occurs, seed sown earlier is dried up and we need hundred per cent seeds for replacement and re-sowing. When the seeds do not germinate fully, whole crop gets destroyed and production also falls. When the seeds are not pure, it catches disease. Such incident is on the increase now. The hon. Minister is quite aware as to what is happening about wheat in Haryana. There is disease in Bajara crops and the same situation exists with regard to cotton. On the one hand, farmers do not get remunerative prices, on the other seeds production has been entrusted to private agencies. When we purchase certified seeds, be it a paddy or oil seeds, it is not found to be a certified seeds after opening the bags and in the process farmers suffer loss. He is not in a position to return the loans he takes.

Unless you prepare a national policy, problem is not going to be solved. You had spent Rs. 61 crores on seeds programmes during sixth five year plan. You have spent one or two crores of rupees more amount in the seventh five year plan. It is not correct. Seeds production is at variance with the number of National Seeds Corporation or Farming Corporations which have been established at different places. Some private people have also established seed production enterprises. I want that hon. Minister should pay attention to it and formulate good programmes about seeds. You may take a stand that these programmes come in purview of the State Governments and you can not intervene. When our production has gone down by eight lakh tonnes and we are going to fix a target of 175 million tonnes, how is this going to be achieved? There

should be an integrated approach with regard to production and there should be a national seed policy. Similarly, some sort of co-ordination should be maintained between the States and the Central Government. Though the I.C.A.R. conducts researches, thrust should be given to tissue cultural instead of genetic engineering which is receiving more attention these days. There should be a time bound programme for this purpose. Though high claims are made in this regard, yet farmers do not get any benefit. A book entitled 'Varieties of seeds' is being published. But it is neither known nor available to farmers. I, therefore, request the Government to change its view point with regard to supply of seeds. At the time of any drought and famine, Government needs to make 100 per cent supplement of seeds. If the seeds are not available in the godowns, what can be done at that time. Secondly, due to increase in humidity in the atmosphere, the seeds go waste and get eaten up by worms. Similarly, there are places where the quantum of rainfall is much more. When seeds are supplied to these areas after rainy season, their germination percentage goes down, because there are no facilities of cold storage in these areas. The farmer become victim of these lapses and particularly the small farmer suffers the most.

Similarly, while coming to price front, I would like to point out that prices of certified seeds, foundation seeds, multiple seeds are being charged arbitrarily. The farmers are being exploited by the State and National Seeds Corporation. When this issue is raised in this House, the matter is side-tracked on the plea that it is a state subject. The seeds are received from Maharashtra, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. Hence the State Governments should look into it. How will you manage the affairs, if you do not made available seeds in accordance with the needs of agro-climatic regional zones and make arrangements for cold storage

[Sh. Balasaheb Vikhe Patil]

and formulate a national seeds policy. If the Government does not supply the seeds well before rainy season, the seeds will not germinate in time and will not yield good crops. It is, therefore, necessary that efforts should be made to supply seeds before the rainy season sets in. There is a need to make further improvements in it. Some time back, garlic seeds were sown in my area. But not a single seed did germinate. Similarly, it has been seen that of sonalika variety of wheat turn into drop variety of wheat due to adulteration. Adulteration should be checked firmly. The State Governments have been asked to look into it. But there is a need to pay more attention to it.

What I want to say is that unless adequate arrangements are made for cold storage, the farmers will not get good quality seeds. There should be a co-ordination between the States and the Central Government in this regard. Similarly, there is also a need to change our national seed policy. Unless the agriculture production goes well, the country's economy cannot be on sound footing and the farmer cannot lead a good life. It will also deteriorate the condition of the consumers living in the villages. I, therefore, urge that one or the other national seed policy must be formulated.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Patil has made some suggestions prior to it. He desired to know whether there was a proposal to formulate a national seed policy. The reply to this question was given in negative and accordingly, he was informed that when a policy already existed on this subject, the question of formulating a new policy does not at all arise.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you are aware, at the time of independence of our country, total national production of foodgrains was to the tune of 5.10 crore

tonnes only. But now the target has reached to 15 crores tonnes. All this could be possible due to supply of good quality seeds to farmers as a result of concerted researches done by our scientists in various Agriculture Universities and I.C.A.R. The production has increased by three times due to high yielding variety of seeds. The Hon. Prime Minister has taken keen interest in agriculture. The Government has set up agro-climatic zones in the country with a view to supplying full information to the people about the climatic conditions of the respective zones and advising them the crops they should grow, the time of sowing and variety of seeds to be sown and the quantity of fertiliser the crop would require. All these steps have been taken to see that the farmer could produce more and more and his lot could be improved. He has said that good quality seeds are not available. In this connection, I am to say that the Government has duly amended the laws and enacted an act in which it has been provided that for any kind of adulteration made in the seeds and seeds found to be sub-standard, the adulterator is liable to be punished by imprisonment up to six months or to be fined upto Rs.1000/-. Testing laboratories have been duly set up in the country. Anybody can go to the laboratories with sample and get them tested. Certified seeds are properly sealed. Before purchasing seeds, the farmer should see to himself that the seal is in fact. If it is not so, he should not take the seeds. The farmers are being briefed in this regard from time to time. There are national seed farms run by Central Government and the States have also set up their own seed farms. But it has not been possible to supply as much seeds as the farmer requires. We are meeting only 42% of the total requirements. The rest of the farmers get foundation seeds which are thoroughly checked 4 times before their supply. The respective supplying Governments ensure checking of the seeds before supplying them. Not only that the seeds are put under strict observation at various

stages of their growth i.e. plants right from lowerages to harvesting so as to detect any kind of disease at any stage. It is also ascertained whether it conform to our standard. If it conforms to our standard after due process and certification, only then it is cleared for sale. We produce about 19 lakh tonnes of seeds and distributed 56 lakh tonnes of seeds all over the country. No doubt, there is shortage of seeds. Due to drought for consecutively two to three years, we have been experiencing shortage of pulses and oilseeds also. Millet seeds are grown in Gujarat and Rajasthan. Seeds of pulses and oilseeds are also produced in these areas. We have been experiencing a lot of difficulties due to drought. In spite of that, it has been our efforts to supply seeds to the farmers in full quantity. A proper watch is being kept on private seed supplying agencies so as to check any kind of mischief done by them.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :
They get diseased seeds.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Seeds are duly processed and tested and only then supplied to farmers. Before supplying, it is ensured that the seeds are not pestilent and the farmer does not find any difficulty to grow the seeds. The hon. Member has also asked to launch a time-bound programme. In this connection, I would like to say that the Government has prepared a timebound programme for this purpose. A Committee under the chairmanship of a scientist has been appointed to report to the Government, with regard to the measures to be adopted to ensure that seeds reach the farmer in time and he has no complaint about it. The Member he has also raised the issue of prices. In this connection, I would like to furnish the figures. The procurement price of wheat seeds is Rs. 465 per quintal whereas the Government sells to the farmers at Rs. 425 per quintal. Similarly, the procurement price of paddy seeds is Rs.465 per quintal

and the Government supplies to the farmers at Rs. 425 per quintal. The Government incur a loss and supplies to farmers at reasonable rates. It is not so, as has been said by the hon. Member, that the Government makes the purchase from the farmers at a cheaper rate and sells at a higher rate. The yield of this variety is less than the general crop and it requires more fertilizers, water and aftercare. As regards cold storage, as suggested by the hon. Member, I also share his views that it is very essential. A meeting was held for this purpose. We will ensure that seeds are so stored that not even one per cent of seeds lose germination potential. We are making all out efforts that the seeds to be supplied to farmers do not lose its germination potential even after six months of their storages so that no room is left for complaints by the farmers. If at all, there is any complaint against the quality, it should be given in writing to the Government of India. All arrangements have been made to supply seeds to the farmers in time. If the seeds do not germinate and a written complaint is made to us, we will definitely take action. Farmers are the backbone of the country. The Government wants that they should get water, power, good quality fertilisers and seeds in time. With the co-operation of the hon. Members, we will extend all help to the farmers so that, they could be benefited more and more.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Sir, we do not doubt the intentions of the Government. The Hon. Minister has stated that there is a policy but what is wanting is the implementation of that policy. The spurious seeds and adulterated seeds are sold to the farmers when there is a natural calamity, say drought or flood and the breeders, the foundation seeds, certified seeds are not available. I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether the breeder and quality seeds are available and whether the foundation seeds

[Sh. Somnath Rath]

are sent to the States? The intentions will not be fulfilled unless it is implemented at the grass-root level by the States. It has come out in Press that in some States spurious seeds are given to the cultivators. So, under these circumstances, our aim being that by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan, we should reach the target of 175 million, specific steps should be taken for that purpose of course, I would congratulate the hon. Agriculture Minister for the steps which he had taken. He is endeavouring hard to see that the target is being reached. But it may be ambitious for the simple reason that besides water and fertilizer-leave apart the other inputs-seed is the main input. If this input is not supplied to the farmer, when it is required by him and that too at a reasonable rate, then it would be very difficult to reach the target. Our Scientists have developed certain foodgrains which can stand the pressure of moisture also. High breeds are also there. The problem is not that our Scientists have not risen to the occasion but the results are to reach the farmer. We have got agricultural *Gram Sevaks*. The World Bank did not finance at one point of time. Unless the *Gram Sevaks* at the State level remain with the Agriculture Department; and not with the BDOs. It is incumbent on the *Gram Sevaks* to go to the villages at least four days' a week. In fact they are not going. The Science and Technology is to be transferred to the farmers. We should take active steps to educate the farmers, as the hon. Minister said just now.

The farmers can be educated only through *Gram Sevaks* - agriculture Department officers. Unless they do so and unless there is mobility of seeds from one State to another, it may not be possible to reach the target. It is not only the National Seeds Corporation, but we must see that the State Government can produce the foundation seeds and certified seeds. If any other State is want of it, there should be free movement.

The Central Government should see to it. If these things are done and done efficiently, then and then alone the production will increase and in the drought and flood affected areas, we can assist the farmer and reach the target of production. So it is certainly the herculean task. It is not that we only speak. It must be implemented. The answer is that it should be sincerely and honestly implemented. The Minister in the meeting along with the other Ministers should discuss this matter, review the matter, get reports from the different States and then he will be able to know how best it is being implemented.

[Translation]

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while taking note of the time factor, I would like to seek clarification on only one or two important points from the hon. Minister. In his reply the hon. Minister said that we were experiencing shortage of seeds, be it was certified seeds or foundation seeds. On the other hand, the National Seeds Corporation has stated in its annual report for the year 1985-86 that as much as 1.35 lakh quintal seeds of wheat remained unsold and as such it had to be sold as non-seeds at competitive rates in open market. How much loss did the Government suffer on account of selling these seeds at competitive rates in open market? On the one hand, there is shortage of certified seeds in our country and foundation seeds and certified seeds are not available, on the other, the National Seeds Corporation suffers losses to the extent of lakhs of rupees by selling seeds as non-seeds. It is a matter of concern for us. I would like the hon. Minister kindly to explain the circumstances under which it was sold as non-seeds.

Secondly, several Corporations, Agricultural Universities and Institutions are providing certified or hybrid variety of wheat and paddy seeds to the farmers. But the country has been experiencing acute short-

age of pulses and oilseeds. We all along come to know from the newspapers that sun flower, which is an important source of oil, is not available in adequate quantity in the country to meet our requirements. What steps are being taken by the Government in this regard? Green manure is very essential for maintaining soil fertility. But constituent elements of this manure, Like 'Jantar' and 'Dhencha', are scarce in this country. We want that fertility of our soils should be maintained and they are not allowed to become barren in future because excessive treatment of chemical fertilizers to the soils is depleting the fertility of soil. I want the hon. Minister to explain the Government's policy on green manure. I also want to know how the Government is ensuring the timely supply of green manure to farmers? Further, I want to know as to who supplied 10,000 quintals of rotten Bajra seeds to the U.P. and Rajasthan Governments in 1983? Was it the National Seeds Corporation or a private agency or some other else and whether any action has been taken against the party concerned by the Ministry?

Sir, about 3-4 months back, 'BISCOMAN' supplied seeds to the state of Bihar. When these seeds were sown in nearly 2.5 lakh hectares of land, they failed to germinate. All their labour and investment went waste. May I know from where 'BISCOMAN' got these seeds, how did these seeds reach the farmers and what action has been taken against the quality?

Besides this, I want to ask a very important question relating to the 'Money-back Guarantee' clause in this policy. This clause assures the farmers that their money would be returned if the seeds fail to germinate. How many farmers have availed of this facility? Is it true that not even 1 % of the country's farmers have gained anything out of it? If so, what are the reasons behind it? Is it the rigid framework of the 'Money-Back Guarantee' clause which does not allow for any compen-

sation to farmers or is it because the farming community is ignorant of the very existence of such a law? How is it that farmers are not re-imbursed the cost of seeds even after bearing such heavy losses?

Sir, another question I want to ask is about centres established for supply of seeds. These have been set-up at such far-off locations that seeds are never delivered in time. The entire House is aware of this and one of our hon. colleagues even mentioned it recently. Being farmers we are all familiar with this situation. The delivery of seeds is never on schedule because central for their supply are located 300-400 kilometers away. Why does the Government not setup a centre for every group of 10 villages? The farmers of that particular area could work in that centre and produce certified seeds for their own use. This will not only save transport charges but also put an end to the corruption existing in these activities. Will the Government take this step keeping in mind the welfare of crores of our country's farmers?

DR.G.S.RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I will mention just one point because a lot of time has been taken up already.

The hon. Minister said that people who supply spurious seeds will be prosecuted. As everyone knows, the havoc caused by the recent floods in Bihar is a singular occurrence of its kind in the last 150 years. History has never seen a devastation of this magnitude. Belongings of people have been swept away, leaving them with nothing. The Central Government provided assistance to the State Government. Either the State Government supplied spurious seeds to 'BISCOMAN' or the State Government just provided funds to 'BISCOMAN' which in turn supplied spurious seeds. But what is important is the ultimate result—that the seeds failed to germinate and 50 lakh marginal farmers found

[Dr. G.S. Rajhans]

themselves in dire straits. They used fertilizers and other inputs, but after the Rabi crop was destroyed, the kharif crop also failed. A lot of farmers have suffered in the process. There is only one reason why the Rabi crop has failed and that is the supply of spurious seeds. Crores of rupees are involved in this scandal. This Budget says that Co-operatives should be encouraged. But what is the Government going to do about the problems hanging over the Co-operative sector? The Government might say that this is a situation for the State Government to deal with; so why should the Government come to the fore. I can even mention names. By declaring this as a State Government Subject can the Government afford to leave crores of people groping in the dark? Can the Government divest itself of its responsibility? If the Government is alive to its duties and responsibilities, let the hon. Finance Minister announce it in the House. Because it is me who has to face the lakhs of agonised farmers of Bihar. It is me who has to tell them why they have been deceived so, why spurious seeds have been supplied to them and why the guilty have not been brought to book.

[English]

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balesore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister one point. While he was replying to my friend, Mr. Patil, has was saying that there is adequate legislation in our country to punish those who are selling spurious seeds and adulterated seeds, admxtured seeds, etc. But for his kind information I would like to mention here that after the Union Government declared the seeds as an essential commodity and accordingly, in 1963, passed the Seeds Control Order, it was stayed by various High Courts in the country. Several private dealers went to the court of law and the courts ultimately gave stay orders. If so, how can that order be

Implemented?

The Seeds Act of 1966 was passed in Parliament, but unfortunately it is yet be enforced by the States. It is the responsibility of the State Governments to implement it in their States. But many States, as per my information, as many as ten States, have not so far enforced it in their States. How can we punish the guilty then?

Besides this, one more thing, I want to know from the hon. Minister. In the Western countries the production of wheat in 1970 was 3000 kg per hectare and it was raised to 3800 kg by 1980. This marvellous yield could be achieved by those countries by using hybrid seeds and also high yielding varieties of seeds. So, unless we have a national policy of seeds, how can we achieve that type of high yield? In our country the yield of wheat is only about 1700 kg per hectare. How can we achieve higher yields? Besides, our population is growing and how can you feed them unless we also breed hybrid seeds in our fields?

Another point is, the rate of the hybrid seeds is abnormal, it is much more higher, and it is beyond the reach of farmers, specially small and marginal farmers. The traders increase the rate of the hybrid seeds and the high yielding seeds and they also mix the admxtured seeds, etc. in order to get more profits. I am not talking about the National Seeds Corporation. It is known to the hon. Minister. I therefore urge upon the hon. Minister to pay personal attention for the development and growing of more hybrid seeds in that Corporation. As they are lacking in finance, they cannot develop them and expand. Because of this high rate of the hybrid and certified seeds some private farmers etc. are indulging in making more adulterated seeds and high yielding seeds are not being re-generated. The seed supplied by the NSC is not only produced by them but they also procure it from farmers.

But already the hon. Minister has agreed that in most of the interior areas there is no cold storage. Besides, the farmers are not trained to produce the certified or effective standard of seed. So I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the programme to educate the farmers on this issue so that they can produce good seeds. With these words, I thank you very much.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, Shri Somnath has rightly said that the policy needs to be vigourously implemented. The Government is also very keen to act in this direction. It is necessary to monitor as to how the seeds are to be prepared, how they are to be supplied to dealers and how they are to be produced and taken to the people concerned. The Government keeps hearing of grievances from various places. Efforts have been made towards their redressal. Still, the Government has to make an in-depth study of this situation so that farmers do not have nay reason to complain. It is true that only when the farmers are assured of a timely supply of quality seeds can the Government hope to achieve its goal of producing 175 million tonnes of foodgrains. The Government will make concerted efforts to provide all facilities to farmers. The importance of seeds is well-known. Seeds are the key to a good crop. How can a structure stand without a solid foundation? Similarly, if the seeds are of good quality the produce is bound to be rich. There is no question of the yield not coming upto expectations.

Our scientists have made extensive research in this regard. Their untiring efforts have led to the production of 1600 varieties of new hybrid seeds. This is in no way a small achievement, what the hon. Member said about universities and the I.C.A.R. is also true. You know that mere bookish knowledge does not help very much. Until we impart practical training to the farmers at their fields, it will not benefit them at all. The

people from our universities, and that of other agricultural departments go to the farmers from time to time and they have done commendable work. We are going to prepare more of such programmes in the future also so that the farmers are able to derive full benefits. The departments engaged in this work, should go to the villages atleast for a week every month to impart on the spot training to the farmers in this regard. They should select 1 to 2 villages for imparting training to farmers with regard to methods of cultivation of paddy, wheat, mustard, oilseeds & pulses. Only then, it could be put to a practical shape.

Similarly, mentioned has been made about drought and floods. The drought situation has created certain difficulties for us. But Government has extended all assistance to the people. Wherever water is in short supply, we have made efforts to grow crops which require less water and it will help in improving the standards of living of our people.

Similarly, hon. Shri Tripathi had mentioned about Sunflower and green manure. It is true that Sunflower seeds are not produced in adequate quantities. But we are making efforts to import it from U.S.S.R. We will supply the same to our farmers so that their production increases and the quality of the seed is also improved. As regards green manure grass etc., we have produced new varieties of seeds because Rajasthan, Bihar and Gujarat are in the grip of drought and floods. Quality seeds are not available for cultivation of fodder and you are aware that the farmer is completely dependent on his cattle and hence we have to make efforts to produce quality fodder seeds and we are making such efforts. Similarly, it was stated that the bajra seeds supplied to Rajasthan were of sub-standard quality but this has come to our notice only today. We will see as to what action can be taken in this regard. However, as regards the point raised by hon.

[Sh. BhaJan Lal]

Shri Rajhans and Shri Tripathi about Bihar, which has some weight, I want to inform them that as certified seeds of wheat were not available with us, we had supplied them with 4 lakh quintals of best quality wheat from the F.C.I on the request of Bihar Government because there was an acute shortage of wheat in that State. You are aware that any foodgrains, be it rice, wheat, pulses, mustard seeds, millets etc. have germination potential. Therefore, we selected wheat of a good quality and supplied it to Bihar informing them that these are not of a certified variety. Out of the 4 lakh quintals, 1 lakh quintal was supplied to Jammu and Kashmir and from where we have not received any complaints so far. Bihar has of course complained that their germination is not proper. There can be two reasons behind it. Firstly, due to flooding of the fields, seeds may not germinate properly, and secondly, due to drought conditions also, the same may happen. However, we are getting it investigated. The secretary of the concerned Department along with a team, had made an on the spot study of the situation a week ago. The Central Government is not responsible for this matter. Bihar Government was informed beforehand that we are not supplying them certified seeds. Therefore, we cannot stand guarantee in this regard. It was the responsibility of the State Government to have informed the farmers that they were not getting certified quality of seeds.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : Bihar Government did not inform anyone about it

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : This is what I am trying to emphasise that the farmers ought to have been informed of course, the wheat was of a good quality. We got it tested and found its germination potential to be proper.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: We want to hear about the full report so that we can convey it to the people.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: You have submitted that the seed centres are located far-off and that they should be located nearby. We will make efforts to ensure that the centres are located as near to the farmers as possible. Another point which you have submitted is regarding the cooperatives. We will look into that also but the cooperative societies fall under the jurisdiction of the State Government.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: You can at least convey our sentiments to the State Government.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : We appreciate your feelings. Secondly, he has enquired as to how much losses have been suffered due to substandard seeds. Government's policy is in the interest of the farmers and we cannot supply them substandard seeds. We did not carry forward the unused stocks of 1984-85 seeds for distribution in the year 1985-86. We did not do so, lest it should lose germination potentials that stock was sold in the market in the form of wheat. As a result, Government had to suffer a loss of Rs. 1 crore and 90 lakhs. As much as 1 lakh and 35 thousand quintals of wheat were sold in this manner. Thus we did not distribute the old stocks to the farmers in order to protect their interests.

Similarly, while raising some legal matters, Shri Jena has said something. It is under the consideration of the Supreme Court. We will look into the matter. He has stated that in other countries production is much more as compared to ours. However, we have also made comparable progress but some countries are still ahead of us. There can be no two opinion on the fact that China has made more progress than us in agriculture. 20 years ago China was far behind us but today it is far ahead of us. We will make all out efforts to increase our agricultural production and it will be possible only when we supply quality seeds to our

farmers. We will make every effort to produce improved seeds so that quality seeds are supplied to them. With these words, I thank you and conclude.

[English]

MR. DÉPUTY SPEAKER : The House

is adjourned to reassemble tomorrow at 11 a.m.

18.50 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, March 17, 1988/ Phalguna 27, 1909 [Saka].