

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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### LOK SABHA

Thursday, May 3, 1990/Vaisakha 13, 1912  
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at three minutes past  
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

#### Encouragement to Cultivation of Pulses and Oilseeds

\*677. SHRI RUDRASEN  
CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any concrete specific action plan is under consideration to encourage the farmers for the cultivation of pulses and oilseeds and to increase the production of pulses and oilseeds; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b). Four increasing the production of pulses and oilseeds, following Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes are

under implementation:

- i) National Pulses Development Project (NPDP).
- ii) Special Foodgrains Production Programme (SFPP)- Pulses.
- iii) National Oilseeds Development Project (NODP).
- iv) Oilseeds Production Thrust Project (OTPP).

Under these schemes, financial assistance is given to the States on various components like seed production, distribution of seed minikits, large sized demonstration etc. to induce the farmers to take up cultivation of pulses and oilseeds with improved technology on large scale.

A Technology Mission on Oilseeds has also been functioning since 1986 to coordinate all efforts to increase self sufficiency in edible oils by adopting an integrated policy of technology generation, crop production, import, distribution and pricing.

SHRI RUDRASEN CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in spite of the details given by the hon. Minister in regard to the schemes, the farmers in irrigated areas have taken up the production of these crops as side-crops only or as mixed crops. Only in unirrigated areas or under dry land farming, these crops are produced as main crops. No scheme has been formulated by the Government under these programme to provide irrigation facilities to such areas. I would like to know from

the hon. Minister whether irrigation facilities will be provided to such dry land areas when generally crops of pulses and oilseeds are grown by constructing ponds or reservoirs or by sinking tubewells as a measure of minor irrigation by utilising rain water and underground water?

**MR. SPEAKER:** You will ask another supplementary also. Please put your question straight away.

**SHRIRUDRASEN CHAUDHARY:** It has been proved after much scientific research and through practical experience that even a light irrigation can increase the production of these crops two-fold to four-fold. Therefore, I would like to know whether Government would formulate a country-wide scheme of minor irrigation based on rain water and underground water?

**SHRI NITISH KUMAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has given a very apt suggestion, but it is not directly related to the present question. I have already mentioned the names of the schemes sponsored by the Government to increase the production of pulses and oilseeds. If he wants, I can give him details. At present, the production of pulses is 17 million tonnes. The targets for the 8th and 9th Five Year Plans are 17 million tonnes and 21 million tonnes respectively. But for achieving these targets, it is necessary to pay more attention towards the irrigation facilities. Anyway, it is not directly related to the main question.

**SHRI RUDRASEN CHAUDHARY:** Sir, it is not proper on the part of the hon. Minister to say that this issue is not directly related to the main question. My question is related to the production of pulses and oilseeds and, hence, provision of irrigation facilities for these crops does not form a separate question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** They have already made arrangements for providing more irrigation facilities. Please ask your second supplementary.

**SHRI RUDRASEN CHAUDHARY:** My second question is that farmers' actual demand for improved seeds of these crops is not being met. At different places farmers had to use the ordinary seeds due to shortage of improved seeds. I would like to know whether any Beej Gram Yojana based on different agro-climatic zones has been formulated in order to ensure higher production of improved seeds? If so, have different areas been recommended for different crops and incentive schemes prepared accordingly?

**SHRI NITISH KUMAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is right when he says that Beej Gram Yojana should be started, so that improved seeds could be made available under the centrally sponsored schemes. A constant effort is being made at all levels in this regard and many institutions are working in this field. Besides, demonstrations are also organised for new varieties of seeds. In villages, these demonstrations are held at the block level and it is done on a mass scale. The Government wants to expand these programmes further. In this regard, a provision has been made in the loan schemes also. If you permit me I can give the details of each scheme. Beej Gram Yojana is a part of pulses and oilseeds programme.

**MR. SPEAKER:** No, details are not needed.

[English]

**PROF. K.V. THOMAS:** Sir, there is scarcity of edible oil in the country and the price of edible oil is shooting up. Sir, as you are aware, coconut is the major crop in Kerala State and all the previous Governments in Kerala as well as the Members of Parliament from Kerala have requested the Government of India to declare coconut as oilseed so that all the concessions and financial assistance given to the oilseed producers may also be extended to coconut producers.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Prof. Thomas, this question concerns pulses and oil-seeds.

**PROF. K.V. THOMAS:** Sir, our request is to declare coconut as oil-seed. That is our point. All the successive State Governments as well as Members of Parliament and organisations of farmers have requested the Government of India to declare coconut as oilseeds so that they will get all the concessions and financial assistance. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

**SHRI NITISH KUMAR:** The Government will consider the suggestion. However, coconut is not an oilseed crop and a special project is already going on in this respect. The Government will reconsider the suggestion of the hon. Member afresh.

**SHRI LALIT VIJOY SINGH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a large agricultural tract located between Fatuha and Lakhisarai in Bihar known by the name of TAL, which measures about 1034 square kilometres. Pulses and oilseeds are the main crops of this area, but there has been a constant fall in their production. I would like to know whether Government proposes to start any special scheme for increasing production of these crops in this area? In this regard, I would also like to know whether the Government is aware that in 1970...

**MR. SPEAKER:** You cannot read it out.

**SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH:** I am doing so only to give the date. On 22 August, 1970, the then Minister of Irrigation Shri K.L. Rao had surveyed that area and had given some suggestions to make the scheme successful. I would like to know whether Government proposes to take up the development of this area under the Centrally Sponsored National Pulses, Development Project?

**SHRI NITISH KUMAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to correct the figure of area of TAL. The area of this land is 1062 square kilometres and not 1032 square kilometres.

Only pulses are grown in this area in the Rabi season. agriculture is a State subject and, therefore, if the State Government sends a proposal, particularly in regard to the development of pulses and oilseeds, the Centre can consider giving assistance under centrally sponsored scheme. Assistance can also be given under the Special Foodgrains Production Programme, if the State Government asks for it.

**SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:** I would like to know from the hon. Minister what incentive schemes were started in the past to encourage cultivation of pulses and oilseeds, particularly Masur, Gram and Arhar in the plateau of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, which is also known as Bundelkhand? I would also like to know about the future plans of the Government in this regard?

**SHRI NITISH KUMAR:** As I said earlier, there are two schemes for the development of pulses. National Pulses Development Project and Special Foodgrains Production Programme (Pulses). Under the National Pulses Development project, incentive is given to the crops of gram, arhar, moong, urad, masur and peas, whereas under the Special Foodgrains Production Programme (Pulses), special attention is paid to gram and arhar. The hon. Member has mentioned about a particular district. More than 200 districts are covered under the National Pulses Development Project and about 205 more districts...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Is the district mentioned by Shri Agnihotri also covered under it?

**SHRI NITISH KUMAR:** About 48 districts are covered under the Special Foodgrains Production Programme. Most of the districts of Bundelkhand are covered under these schemes. If any district has been left out, the hon. Member may give a separate notice for it and we will take suitable steps after giving it due consideration. We shall pay special attention for the development of pulses and oilseeds in that area.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr Basudeb Acharia.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, there are a number of programme... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not permitted you. Yes, Mr. Basudeb Acharia.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, West Bengal is a State where the production of oil - seeds has increased significantly. Five years back, the State of West Bengal could produce only six per cent of its total requirement of oilseeds. Last year, West Bengal produced 34 per cent of its requirement. The technology mission programme for increasing the production of oilseeds is a good programme in addition to other programmes. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government proposes to assist that State of West Bengal to increase the production of oilseeds.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has himself admitted that there has been significant progress in oilseeds but the same is not true of pulses. Production in West Bengal has increased due to the favourable agricultural policies. Be it centrally sponsored projects or State sponsored projects, they have benefited from them. As I have said earlier, there are four projects for the development of pulses and oilseeds in West Bengal. Out of these four programmes, they are getting desired assistance under three programmes. However, if the State Government submits a separate proposal for additional help in addition to the three schemes already mentioned, it will be given due consideration. At present the West Bengal Government is associated with both the programmes i.e. the National Oilseeds Development programme (NODP) and the

Oilseeds Production Thrust Programme (OPTP) and also with National Pulses Development Programme.

[English]

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARDHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, black gram is the main pulse which is used in our favourite dishes of Idli, Dosa and Vada. There is short supply of black gram. I would like to know whether the Government has produced any hybrid variety of black gram under the National Pulse Development Programme. If not, I want to know whether the Government has got any proposal to produce it.

My second part of the question is cotton seed oil is a major oil in India. So, I would like to know whether the Government has declared cotton seed as an oilseed or not.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, cotton seed has not been declared as oilseed so far or its oil as edible oil but it is being considered. It is also being considered as to how cottonseed oil could be refined so as to make it edible.

SHRI RAJMANGAL PANDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it makes no difference whether a scheme is sponsored by the Centre or by the State. If you see the records of previous 7 years you would find that despite all the motivation and subsidy given, there has been no proportional increase in the production of pulses and oilseeds. This may be due to two reasons: Firstly, the biological needs of the farmers have not been fulfilled and secondly the bureaucracy is bent upon to fail these schemes. That is why despite all the subsidy and motivation these schemes are not succeeding. I would like to know as to why these schemes failed and what action is being taken by the Government to remove the obstacles.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I agree with the hon. Member's contention that the progress of these schemes has been below expecta-

tion. The Government would take all possible measures in this regard and seriously consider any new suggestion put forward by the hon. Member to increase the production of pulses. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI K.S. RAO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, irrespective of the fact whether the Hon. Minister replied to the question or not, he is answering better than his senior colleague. We are very happy about it.

The *dal* and edible oil are the basic requisites for common man's consumption and the prices of *dal* and pulses and edible oil are going too high, they are going out of the reach of the common man. Similarly, when it comes to the question of remunerative prices to the farmers, the fluctuation is so much that sometimes the prices of pulses come down from Rs. 800 to Rs. 400 or so. One of the reasons being indiscriminate import of pulses sometimes whereby the farmers are getting affected. So, both the consumers and the farmers are affected.

I would like to know whether hon. Minister will put it to the Cabinet to include the *dal* varieties also to be supplied through public distribution system so that common man can get at the fair price.

No.2, whether he will think of gearing the market machinery in such a manner that the prices will not fluctuate from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 400 so that the farmers will get the right price and they are encouraged to produce enough pulses and oilseeds in the country.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The Government will consider the hon. Member's suggestion to sell these commodities through public distribution system. Right now, it is not directly related to the Department of Agriculture. It is related to the Civil Supply and Food Department. However, I would like to say that this is a good suggestion and I will take up the matter with the concerned depart-

ment in the light of the suggestion of the hon. Member.

### **Declaration of Roads as National Highways in Bihar**

\*678. SHRI RAJ MANGAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the roads in Bihar for which Government of Bihar has urged Union Government for declaring as National Highways; and

(b) the action taken in this regard?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### **STATEMENT**

(a) and (b) During the 7th Plan (1985-90), the Government of Bihar proposed the following roads for being declared as National Highways, viz

- i) Link Road from Mokameh to Farakka;
- ii) Govindpur (NH-2)- Jamtara-Hansdiha-Bhagalpur-Punchasal-Wasaharsa-Birpur;
- iii) Patna-Hajipur-Muzaffarpur-Sitamari-Bhitha More;
- iv) Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga-Forbesganj-Purnea;
- v) Korha (NH 31)-Katihar-Pranpur-Maldah-(NH 34); and
- vi) Aurangabad-Pandavpur-Gorhata-Maha (M.P. Border)-Ambikapur-Bilaspur-Raipur (NH.6)

However, owing to financial stringency