

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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## LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 22, 1990/Chaitra 1, 1912  
(Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at  
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. SPEAKER: Before we start with Questions, I wish to draw the attention of Members that normally there are 20 Questions in the Starred List for answer and there is only one hour to exhaust the List which means if we want to cover all the 20 questions ideally, not more than three minutes should be taken on each question. But on my part I am keen to see that at least 10 to 12 questions should be orally answered. I would, therefore, impress upon the Honourable Members to cooperate with me and not to insist to continue with one question beyond five minutes on an average.

Honourable Members may bear in mind that under the Rules a question is not to exceed 150 words and as such supplementary question should also not exceed that limit. Supplementaries have to be brief, pointed without any long preface or introduction, and only one question should be asked. Similarly, replies of the Ministers should also be brief. Frequent interruptions have also to be avoided to make the Question Hour useful.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

### Claims Under Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme

\*142. SHRI GANGA CHARAN  
LODHI:  
SHRI K. PRADHANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is still an abnormal delay in payment of claims under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme to farmers,

(b) how much total amount is outstanding in this respect, State-wise; and

(c) what effective measures are being taken and contemplated to help these suffering farmers?

[*Translation*]

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a). No, Sir. Out of the total claims of Rs. 607.29 crore that are payable under the CCIS upto the end of Kharif 1989, claims of the order of Rs. 578.54 crore have already been paid. The balance claims of Rs. 28.75 crore pertaining to Kharif 1989 & previous seasons are pending for want of state governments' share.

(b) A Statewise statement of the details of indemnity claims yet to be paid under the

CCIS upto the end of Kharif 1989 is laid on the table of the House.

vised to send yield data in time and release their onethird share expeditiously to avoid delay.

(c) State Governments have been ad-

### STATEMENT

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the States/U.Ts.</i>	<i>claims to be paid (Rs. in lakh)</i>
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1791.19
2.	Gujarat	749.49
3.	Himachal Pradesh	5.02
4.	J. & K.	64.89
5.	Kerala	0.10
6.	Maharashtra	245.73
7.	Tamil Nadu	18.85
8.	Pondicherry	0.04
Total		2875.31

1/3 share of State Governments awaited.

**SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any directive has been issued to state governments to make payment of the balance claims of Rs. 28.75 crore pending for want of state governments' share and action proposed to be taken in case they fail to comply with the directive issued to them?

**SHRI DEVI LAL:** All the State Governments have been informed that in regard to payment of claims under the crop insurance scheme, one third payment is to be made by them and remaining two third payment is to be made by Central Government. They have been advised to release their one third share expeditiously to avoid delay in making payments.

**SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, no details have been given about Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in the written statement showing outstanding amounts against state governments. I would like to know, through you, whether the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme has not been implemented in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar? If so, why not?

**SHRI DEVI LAL:** So far as the crop insurance is concerned, it has been implemented in almost all the states except one or two states like Punjab and Haryana.

[English]

**SHRI UTTAM RATHOD:** Sir, there are

many Crop Insurance cases lying in the High Court of Bombay for the last two to three years. Will the Government expedite the judgements in these cases?

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVI LAL: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government will take action on the suggestion given by the hon Member and do its best to expedite the matter

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon Deputy Prime Minister as to what are the criteria of fixation of amount to be paid under the Crop Insurance Scheme? I am asking this because there are different yardsticks for different states. It has been implemented in Madhya Pradesh also, but it is not exactly a Crop Insurance Scheme. I understand the scheme implemented in Madhya Pradesh is meant for recovery of bank loans taken by the 6 Farmers whereas the Scheme is aimed at providing compensation to the farmers for the damage to their crops due to natural calamities like drought, floods etc. So, I would like to know from the hon Minister as to what are the criteria of fixation of amount under the Crop Insurance Scheme and whether the scheme being implemented in Madhya Pradesh has the approval of the government?

SHRIDEVILAL Mr Speaker, Sir, Crop Insurance Scheme providing for a cover of Rs 10,000 has been implemented in almost all states with effect from 1st April, 1985. Wheat, paddy, coarse grains, oilseeds and pulses are covered under it. The amount to be paid under the scheme is equal to the amount of loan taken by the farmer from the bank subject to a maximum of Rs 10,000/-

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH Mr Speaker, Sir according to the reply laid on the Table of the House, the outstanding amount against Himachal Pradesh is Rs 5.02 lakhs. I would like to know by when this amount is likely to be paid by Himachal Government

SHRI DEVI LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the new Government is making efforts to bring cash crops such as cotton and fruits also under his scheme

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon Minister whether this scheme is applicable to such farmers only who have taken loans or all farmers irrespective of their having taken loans or not? In this Insurance Scheme meant only for the farmers who take loans or for the others also? How are you going to provide relief to farmers?

SHRI DEVI LAL Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government is considering a lot of things, but this is not the opportune moment to discuss them. The present delay in making payment is attributed to the failure of State Governments in releasing their share. The one third amount will be paid by the State Government and the remaining two third will be paid by the Centre. Although I am part of government, yet I have my individual views which I do not hesitate to express. I want that cotton and fruit crops should also be brought under the scheme. At present, they are not covered under the scheme. I made every effort and even prayed to God to get over the delay, but I could not succeed. I fail to understand the causes of delay despite 'Bhajan' and 'Puja' to 'Prabhu'. However, I should not be blamed for the delay. Perhaps it might be the wish of 'Prabhu'.

[*English*]

DR BIPLABDASGUPTA Mr Speaker, Sir (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI P V NARASIMHA RAO Mr Speaker, Sir, the question is very simple that at present bank loan is being insured and not the crops under the scheme. A lot of discussion has already taken place on it. If the Hon Deputy Prime Minister tries to go into the matter, he will come to know that a committee was set up in this regard to make this

scheme more comprehensive. The Government should consider this issue.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The question is regarding crops and not loans.

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question was regarding the insurance of crops and the insurance is linked with bank loan. For example, if I take a particular amount of money as loan, my crops will be insured to the extent of amount of loan taken from the bank. If, I do not take loan and my crops get damaged, I will not get anything under the scheme. Will the Government remove this anomaly in the scheme?

**SHRI DEVI LAL:** In this regard I would like to say that crops are insured for a maximum amount of Rs. 10000/- only. There is provision for full compensation for the loss suffered due to drought or natural calamities up to that limit. Presently the scheme covers the risk upto Rs. 10,000/- only. We are trying our level best to implement this scheme. *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**MR. SPEAKER:** No point of order in Question Hour.

*(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER:** What can I do? I cannot compel the Minister. One hon. Member at a time.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI DEVI LAL:** I am trying to satisfy the hon. Member. The scheme was formulated by them. We implemented this scheme after considering it.... *(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER:** A committee was set up in this regard. Is there any report from it?

**SHRI DEVI LAL:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, a report has been submitted by the Commit-

tee. It is under consideration. But I would like to tell about the short-coming in it.

*[English]*

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO:** We wanted to know whether the report has come. He does not seem to know whether the report has come. First let him say whether it has come.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI DEVI LAL:** The report has already been submitted and it is under our consideration. Out of a total claims of Rs. 277.16 crore, Rs. 214.13 crore have been spent in Gujarat alone. I am surprised how this happened. This scheme was formulated by the previous Government. It is under our consideration.

*(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER:** Shastriji, please take your seat, Shri Biplab Dasgupta.

*[English]*

**DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA:** The scheme, as it stands at the moment, is not of much benefit to the farmers. Apart from the fact that a number of crops have been excluded from the scheme, it calculates damages only at the district or block-level. This means that even when there is a serious damage at the village or household level, the farmers concerned do not get any benefit or compensation unless such damages also take place at the district or sub-division or block-level.

There is another anomaly. The damage is calculated on the basis of the productivity over the past five years, which operates against the farmers who have made big investments in the current year.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is thinking terms of recasting the scheme by taking into account these anomalies.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVILAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there will be volley of questions on by them if I say anything more. We will consider their suggestions. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shastriji, please take your seat. I have called for the next question. Shri A.K. Patel.

[*English*]

**Expert Committee on Fixation of Remunerative Prices for Agricultural Produce**

\*143. DR. A.K. PATEL:  
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up an Expert Committee under the chairmanship of a former Planning Commission Member to go into all the issues connected with the fixation of remunerative prices for farmers' produce;

(b) whether the Committee has submitted any report; if so, its findings and Government's response thereto; and

(c) whether the reactions of the farmers' bodies have been sought on the recommendations of the Committee; if so, the details thereof?

[*Translation*]

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVILAL): (a) Government have set up an Expert Committee for Review of Methodology of Cost of Production of Crops under the Chairmanship of Dr. C.H. Hanumantha Rao, Former Planning Commission Member. The Committee will also review the terms of trade between agriculture and non-agricultural

sectors and suggest any other measures to improve the remunerativeness of crop production.

(b) The Committee has submitted its Interim Report which is under consideration of the Government.

(c) The Committee comprises of experts who are expected to examine technical issues involved from a scientific and objective angle. The farmers' bodies would however have opportunity to react to the recommendations of the Expert Committee after its report is released.

A committee of the representatives of farmers has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Joshi. They will also be asked to give their views. After that, the Government will consider the matter.

[*English*]

DR. A.K. PATEL: This topic was discussed in part during Eighth Lok Sabha several times but no result was achieved. This time luckily we have here Shri Devi Lal who is a person to handle this subject and I am hopeful that he will handle this subject.

This cost of production varies from place to place especially in Gujarat where we have to tap water from neighbouring States. Therefore, the cost of production is very high. What steps the Government is going to take to equalise the cost of production of crops for all the places?

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVILAL: Whatever he has said is absolutely right. Considering the conditions of almost every State, besides Shri Joshi's organisation, farmers' organisations of each State and all the Chief Ministers were asked to send the names of the representatives alongwith their bio-data. Based on the bio-data so received, a seven member committee has been appointed in each State which would look into the matter as to what procurement price should be fixed for a