

Diminishing trend in mango cultivation

*842. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the diminishing trends in mango cultivation and yields in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken to protect this variety of consumer and commercial plantation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (S. BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). Mango is not a forecast crop. There are no reliable reports indicating a diminishing trend either in area under mango cultivation or in the yield. However, as per the rough estimate, the area and production of mango have gone up in the recent years.

Subsidy to States for purchase of sprinkler irrigation equipments

*843. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA :
SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are giving subsidy to various States for purchase of sprinkler irrigation equipments under the DPAP/DRDA schemes;

(b) if so, how much subsidy was given to the States during the last 3 years for the purpose;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Union Government that some State Governments are mis-utilising the subsidy; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (S. BUTA SINGH): (a) to (d). The Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) is a centrally sponsored scheme with the expenditure shared equally by the Centre and the concerned States. The Central share is released as a grant to the States. Sprinkler irrigation

schemes come under Minor Irrigation which is one of the approved sectors of activity under DPAP and these are taken up either entirely at State cost or on a community scheme basis with 50 per cent subsidy to the beneficiaries, so far as capital costs are concerned.

Sprinkler irrigation scheme has been included under DPAP only in the State of Karnataka and the total outlay approved for community sprinkler irrigation well scheme and Group Sprinkler irrigation scheme in the Annual Action Plans during the last three years is about Rs. 544 lakhs. Purchase of the equipment when at State cost is done in accordance with the rules and procedures laid down by the State Government. Details of actual expenditure on purchase of sprinkler irrigation equipment are not maintained by the Central Government.

Only one complaint has been received that in Karnataka the rate contract for supply of Sprinkler irrigation equipment has not been placed with the firm quoting the lowest rate. The aggrieved parties had filed writ petitions in the High Court of Karnataka challenging the award of rate contract. According to the information provided by the Government of Karnataka, it is understood that the High Court of Karnataka in a recent judgement has quashed the existing rate contract.

Revision of rate of housing loans and subsidy to tea gardens

*844. SHRI MANIK SANYAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestion from the Plantation Labour Housing Board for revision of rates of loan and subsidy to individual tea gardens for construction of houses for labourers as per the Plantation Labour Act, in the light of price escalation of all the commodities, like Galvanised Iron Sheet, cement, timber etc:

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the time by which the rates of loan and subsidy are expected to be revised; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR) :

(a) It has been decided to discontinue the scheme of Subsidised Housing for Plantation Workers' with effect from 1986-87.

(b) and (c). Question do not arise.

News captioned "Western Media Shapes Third World Views"

*845. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Western Media Shapes Third World Views" published in the Hindustan Times dated 4 April, 1986;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to strengthen the Non-aligned News Pool as also to help the promotion of New International Information Order; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps to correct the Western bias and give an Asian orientation to the coverage of news reports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India has played an active role in creating and promoting the Non-aligned News Agencies Pool since its inception in 1976. So far, 10 satellite links have been established and another 4 are in the process of being implemented. In addition, India has been taking active part in the various international conferences to ensure that the Pool continues to grow and serve its avowed objective of projecting the news about the Non-aligned Movement and Non-aligned countries in proper perspective.

(c) The Indian News Agencies are members of the Organisation of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (O.A.N.A.). This ensures multi-lateral arrangements among news agencies of the region which further their

common interests and increase the flow of information which the region and to other regions. Many members of the OANA belong to the Non-aligned Movement. The Government had extended assistance for holding of the 6th General Assembly of OANA in New Delhi in March 1985 when Press Trust of India assumed the Chairmanship of the Organisation for 3 years. The utilisation of the News Pool stories by the Indian press is reviewed from time to time by P.T.I. The results so far have been quite encouraging.

Multi-coloured scientific plates on Monghyr district published by G.S.I.

7914. **SHRI D. P. YADAVA :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether compilation work containing scientific contents and multi-coloured scientific plates on Monghyr district has been finally published by the Geological Survey of India; and

(b) if not, the time by which the study report is to be finally published ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) All efforts would be made to publish the material next year.

[Translation]

"Sach Ki Parchhain"

7915. **SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times the programme 'Sach Ki Parchhain' have been telecast, so far and the names of the departments concerning which these programmes have been shown;

(b) whether Government have made any assessment about the impact of this program-