

Gujarat, for instance, there was a special project for subsidies for cultivation of groundnuts. That was later on extended to some other parts also. In Madhya Pradesh, there was a special project for Soyabean cultivation. If other States also come forward to increase production of oilseeds, they can take advantage of the other schemes for subsidy, as, for instance, the small and Marginal Farmers Special Project of Rs. 250 crores which was sanctioned last year. Also mini-kits are available free to farmers. Then for minor irrigation' subsidies and loans are available to small and marginal farmers and there are several other schemes under the Ministry of Agriculture for plant protection. There are also schemes for supply of seeds, at subsidised rates and under the Special Projects subsidy is available even for irrigation, for seeds, for plant protection and for various other things.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I think the recent technological developments have made it possible to extract edible oil from a number of sources, which have not hitherto been used. One of the most important one is rice bran. Oil extracted from rice bran was not edible so far, but now technology has made it edible. In this country we have 60 million tonnes of rice and 30 million tonnes of rice bran. And with 10 per cent oil extraction, it will give us three million tonnes of edible oil. There are also other sources for oil production such as Sal seeds that are available. They give very high value oil, including the cocoa butter. Then even the mango-kernel gives a very rich quantity of oil. I would like to know what the Government is doing to see that the edible oil shortage is wiped out by using these sources and the technology which are now available in this country ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Government is laying special emphasis on extraction of oil from the sources which the hon. Member has mentioned. We are aware of all these sources, but I am doubtful if the gap between demand and supply of edible oils in this country can be met by adopting these sources alone.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : By adopting these resources also.

(Interruptions)

[Translations]

MR. SPEAKER : I have a proposal, both the hon. Ministers are present here.

You had said that the farmer is smart and he switches over to the crop which gives him more remunerative price. Therefore, it is my proposal that you should ensure it in advance that the price of the produce does not fall below the support price level, so that he may continue to grow that crop.

[English]

And he should be fully prepared in advance. He should not be allowed to be fleeced by others. This is my proposal.

[Translation]

Setting up of a T.V. Centre in Chambal Region

*84. **SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a television centre in Chambal Region;

(b) if so, whether installation of T.V. towers in Ambah and Porsa tehsils will benefit the inhabitants of this areas; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) No, Sir. The existing transmitters at Agra, Kanpur and Allahabad, however, provide significant coverage to this area.

(b) There is no proposal at present under consideration of the Government to instal TV transmitters at Ambah or Porsa.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chambal area is quite far off from Agra, Kanpur and Gwalior Doordarshan Kendras. The coverage of Gwalior Kendra is also very small. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he will consider raising the power of the transmitters installed Agra, Etawa and Gwalior Centres.

[English]

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : Unless the Seventh Plan is finalised, it will not be

possible for me to make any commitment, but his suggestion will be taken into account.

SHRI AMITABH BACHCHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are a large number of cities in our country.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Like Allahabad.

SHRI AMITABH BACHCHAN : Today nothing on Allahabad. Sir, there are a large number of cities in our country on the border area which are picking up TV transmission from neighbouring countries, like Pakistan and Bangladesh, primarily because their transmissions are very powerful. What is our country doing to increase the transmission power especially of those cities that are on the border so that neighbouring countries can also be able to enjoy our programmes ?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : We are fully aware of this requirement and the Seventh Plan is proposed to give priority to border and strategic areas.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : I will put a very sharp question. What are the objective criteria for locating TV stations ? Number two, if there are any guidelines how is it that Buxar which is one of the important centres of our ancient civilisation where the Central Ministry of Tourism has started a 'Sound and Light' programme on Ramayana epic, where lakhs of pilgrims flock, which is actually also a seat of Bhojpuri language, has been left out ?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : I don't know whether it is his constituency. The criteria so far applied was firstly the population. It is because we wanted to reach the maximum number of viewers. Now in the Seventh Plan our attempt is this. There are many other factors which have to be taken into account, this is, strategic area, then, tribal area, and then, areas where the coverage is very much less when compared with the national average.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : What about Buxar ?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : I don't know the size of the 7th Plan for my Ministry. Therefore I said once it is known then we will decide on how much can be allotted.

MR. SPEAKER : What about my request ?

Rise in Sugar Price

*85. **SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI+ :**
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the prices of sugar are soaring high in the market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to check it ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) There has been some increase in the prices of sugar in the open market since beginning of June, 1985.

(b) The rise in sugar prices is mainly due to limited availability of indigenous sugar as a result of significantly lower sugar production in 1983-84 and 1984-85 as compared to 1982-83 and 1981-82 sugar year and substantial increase in internal consumption from 1981-82 season onwards.

(c) The steps taken include—

(i) the decision to import 10 lakh tonnes of sugar and arrange its distribution through State Government agencies and sale to licensed dealers by auction/tender through the Food Corporation of India;

(ii) advice to State Government to ensure strict enforcement of statutory provisions relating to stock holding limits and time limit for turn-over of stocks; and

(iii) adequate releases of freesale and levy sugar for internal consumption.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : The Minister in his reply said that there has been only some increase. We are coming from our respective States and we know the position. In Delhi and also in various places all over the country sugar prices have gone up to Rs. 8 per kilo.

AN HON. MEMBER : Rs. 8-40 per kilo.