

Organisations have demanded that the basis on which Consumer Price Index is prepared today needs basic changes. Besides, I also want to know that the Rath Committee appointed by the Government had submitted a number of recommendations including the one which named the commodities to be included in the basket for determining the consumer price index. Have you taken any decision on the detailed recommendations submitted by that committee or they are still under consideration ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : I have already told you that the newly appointed committee have gone into all these recommendations and have given consideration to plots, rooms, house rent, etc. with reference to price index. I think, the day it is announced, all of you will be pleased.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Has any time limit been fixed for taking a decision or not ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : I am not *Lakshmi-pati*. The Finance Minister is *Lakshmi-pati*. I shall have to talk to him ; then only something will be done ... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Wherefrom 'Pati' has come. Sir, he is talking about 'Lakshmi-pati' ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You will have to illustrate it.

[*English*]

Production of Oilseeds

*4. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for the production of oilseeds for Sixth Five Year Plan and achievements made ;

(b) the reasons for shortfall, if any ;

(c) the target fixed for the production of oilseeds during the Seventh Five Year Plan ; and

(d) the special measures being taken to increase the production and achieve the target ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Production of oilseeds during the terminal year of Sixth Five Year Plan (1984-85) has been 130.98 lakh tonnes against the target of 130 lakh tonnes.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The target of oilseeds production for the terminal year of Seventh Five Year Plan (1989-90) has been fixed at 180 lakh tonnes.

(d) Centrally Sponsored National Oilseeds Development Project which was initiated during 1984-85 is continued during 1985-86. National Oilseeds Development Project encompasses special projects for the development of groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, soyabean and sunflower besides the programmes for development of other oilseeds.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : I am grateful to the Union Government, particularly the Ministry of Agriculture, that they have exceeded the 6th Plan target vis-a-vis the production of oilseeds. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that oilseeds of various types are not included under the Crop Insurance Scheme ? If so, which are the varieties of oilseeds which are not included and what action is proposed to be taken by the Government for inclusion of those varieties of oilseeds under the Crop Insurance Scheme ?

These oilseeds are exposed to various types of natural calamities, pest, attacks etc. What action do the Government propose to take for inclusion of these oilseeds under the Crop Insurance Scheme, as also for advising the State Governments for inclusion of those varieties of oilseeds under this Scheme ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Basically, this question does not pertain to the Crop Insurance. It is regarding the production of oilseeds. However, since the hon. member asked, may I inform him through you that the Crop Insurance Scheme is recently introduced and we have been introducing the scheme in those States which have accepted it. But in the field of oilseeds, particularly in dry land farming, the Insurers are not coming forward and it is very difficult. However, we are persuading the Insurers as well as the farmers to be covered under this Crop Insurance Scheme.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : While replying to question (d), the hon. Minister has replied that the centrally sponsored oilseeds development project which was instituted during 1984-85 is being continued during 1985-86 also. May I know whether this scheme will be extended till the end of Seventh Five Year Plan to meet the Seventh Plan targets? If so, what is the amount to be allotted in the Seventh Plan for this scheme? I would like to know whether it is a fact that many State Governments including the State Government of Orissa have requested the Centre for financial assistance to expand the production of oilseeds programme in their States. If so, what are the reactions of the Government?

MR. SPEAKER : You are unnecessarily lengthening your question.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, this scheme is to be continued for the year 1985-86 also and it is likely to be included in the entire period of the Seventh Plan. I want to amend my previous statement about the inclusion of oilseeds under Crop Insurance. The entire variety of oilseeds are included under the Crop Insurance Scheme. So far as the State of Orissa is concerned, the national oilseeds development project for the year 1984-85 is continued again in 1985-86 also and the outlay at all India level is Rs. 30 crores to cover an area of 122.70 lakh hectares. There is Seventh Plan allocation because it is a continuing scheme.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : May I know from the hon. Minister, while inter-

nationally coconut is classified as an oilseed crop and is recognised as such, why in this country, his Ministry has, so far been, keeping out and excluding this precious valuable commodity which concerns the entire coastal area, from getting the benefits of oilseeds programme?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : There is a Coconut Board which looks after the coconut crop and it is now included in the oilseeds. It is not an oilseed as such . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : What are you saying? It is an oilseed. And internationally it is recognised as an oilseed but his Ministry does not recognise it as an oilseed. That is my whole question.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : It is not an oilseed.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not an oilseed. It is itself oil ?

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : It is an oil bearing tree and it vitally concerns Kerala. I want to know why be so slippery like oil ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (S. BUTA SINGH) : It is a fact that coconut is an oil-based crop. It is an oilseed as such and most of its oil is consumed directly. Therefore, just changing the description will not help. The thing which my hon. colleague mentioned is that there is an independent body to look after the coconut crop. What is the use of including it under oilseeds just for the sake of it? We want to develop the coconut crop and we have already set up a Coconut Board which is looking after the production of coconut. Coconut crop has got every peculiar problems and we are attending to it.

The only thing which the coconut still lacking is price support. The Government of Kerala came forward to the Government of India to allow the inclusion of coconut also in the price backed crops. But the matter is still under consideration.

We hope that we will be able to get the same kind of treatment which the other oilseeds crops are getting.

MR. SPEAKER : I have given them the advice to bring it on par.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : My point is whether it is an oilseed or not.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is what he is trying to do. Let them bring it on par with others.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : The hon. Minister has stated that the production is little more than the target. But the very fact is that nearly Rs. 1100 crores worth of edible oil imported from abroad this year clearly indicates that the figure of this very target is not in tune with the country's requirements. So I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government is going to take steps to increase the targets, to cut the imports and to give remunerative and really incentive prices to the oilseeds producers of the country ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The target is in tune with the production. We have increased the target in the Seventh Plan. However, in order to increase the production of oilseeds, we are launching an oilseeds mission, a special mission to increase the production. We are expecting that it will be increased to 6.15 per cent more than the present production. We are also giving price incentives.

MR. SPEAKER : They want price support.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Now we are declaring the support prices and we are entering into the market. The market intervention was started in 1984-85. In earlier years, we were not intervening in the market, but from 1984-85, we started intervening in the market to procure the oilseeds, so that the farmers will get the remunerative prices. And as a special scheme for oilseeds development

in the Seventh Plan, Rs. 170 crores are allotted.

MR. SPEAKER : What Mr. Buta Singh said was the proper thing, that is to give a support price.

DR. K.G. ADIYODI : Coconut is not included in the category of oilseeds. So whatever benefit is given through the medium of Government, the large scale growers are not getting it. The price of coconut was Rs. 3,000 in 1983 and it has fallen very steeply. Now it is just 1/3rd of it. What are the remedies suggested by the Kerala Government to the Union Government?

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, there is no separate remedy suggested. The Government of Kerala suggested the usual support price and also the market intervention by the public sectors, specially the Co-operative Marketing Federation. Since the coconut, rightly pointed out by Mr. Unnikrishnanji, was a commodity which was not covered under the regular crops called oilseeds, it was a little difficult. We have forwarded the request of the Kerala Government to the Ministry of Finance. It is under active consideration. We hope that we will be able to extend the same support. Sir for the kind information of the hon. Members from Kerala, we are on our own, did encourage the State Government to intervene in the market. When they intervened in the market, the prices went up. Therefore, to that extent, we have helped the State Government and in future also we will continue to help the State Government and we will support the commodities which are used by the poor and especially the oilseeds and pulses, will get the full support of the Government of India.

Expenditure incurred by F.C.I. on foodgrains procurement etc.

*5. DR.† A.K. PATEL :
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

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

(a) the expenditure incurred by the Food Corporation of India on wheat and