

request of the Central Government International Labour Organisation sent a oneman child labour mission comprising Mr. A. Bequele. Towards the end of 1983 he visited some areas where there is a concentration of child labour and he also saw some projects run by voluntary organisations in the field of child labour. Upon conclusion of his mission a report for taking up an action programme was prepared by Mr. Bequele. International Labour Organisation has given an assurance of a small grant for taking up the project.

#### Mechanisation of Farming

\*713. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have laid stress on mechanisation of farming ;

(b) if so, the steps taken for increasing the output through farm mechanisation in Sixth Plan period ;

(c) the achievement made in this regard during the above plan period ; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to bring more acres of land under mechanisation during the Seventh Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE, IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDU LAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The Government have laid stress on selective mechanisation of farming.

(b) The following steps were taken during the VIth Plan for speeding the rate of farm mechanisation :—

(i) Adequate capacities for manufacture of tractors, power tillers, harvester combines, etc., have been created.

(ii) Steps were taken to popularise animal-drawn improved agricultural implements and hand-tools for efficiently utilising the animal and human power. For this purpose a Centrally sponsored Scheme has been launched.

(iii) For identifying the improved agricultural implements and machinery for different agro-climatic conditions, a Central Committee, namely, Agricultural Implements Review & Release Committee was constituted.

(iv) Steps were taken to develop standards for various agricultural implements, machinery and tools. To safeguard the interests of agricultural labour, a Central Act, namely, Dangerous Machines Regulation Act, 1983 was enacted,

(v) Supporting services, in terms of training of farmers are technicians and testing of agricultural machinery and implements, were expanded and strengthened.

(vi) State Agro-Industries Corporations were also encouraged to take up manufacture and distribution of agricultural machinery on extensive scale.

(vii) Adequate credit facilities were made available through institutional sources enabling the farmers to procure agricultural machinery.

(c) (i) During the VI Plan period the annual sale of tractors increased from 65,000 to 81,000 over the Plan period.

(ii) Annual sale of power tillers increased from 1990 to 3950 over the same period.

(iii) Sale of power threshers had gone up from 50,000 to 75,000 annually.

- (iv) During the VIth Plan, about 1 lakh animal-drawn Seed-cum-Fertilizer Drills and 6 lakhs other agricultural machineries were distributed by the State Governments and Union Territories.
- (d) (i) During the VIIth Plan, steps are afoot to expand the distribution of farm machines as well as improved agricultural implements. Adequate facilities for their manufacture already exist.
- (ii) Institutional financing agencies have been approached for making adequate credit facilities available.
- (iii) To help the farmers particularly in dry-land areas, a scheme of popularisation of improved animal-drawn implements and hand tools is being considerably expanded.
- (iv) A scheme for custom hiring of tractors and improved implements is being considered for the VII Plan.
- (v) Setting up of a National Agro Industrial Corporation, with a view to undertaking suitable projects for expanding farm mechanisation and agro-processing industry, is also under consideration.
- (vi) Supporting services for training and testing are proposed to be expanded and strengthened.

**Cocoa Production in Kerala and  
Karnataka**

\*714. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN :  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be  
pleased to state :

(a) the total acreage under cocoa cultivation and production per acre/hectare yield for the crop in the States of Kerala and Karnataka;

(b) whether there are possibilities to increase the acreage under cocoa in these and other States;

(c) whether Government realise the importance of this commercial crop for inter-cropping domestic requirements of chocolate industry and eventually as an exchange earner for exports;

(d) whether Kerala Government have been drawing the attention of his Ministry to the fall in prices and inadequate domestic marketing facilities; and

(e) the remedial steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) to (e). Available information indicates that the total area under Cocoa in the country is around 23,000 hectares during the year 1983-84 of which 18,200 hectares are in Kerala and 4,300 hectares are in Karnataka. There is no official estimate of production and yield per hectare of Cocoa but it is reported that the yield per hectare, for an average garden of the age of 6 years and above, is around 400 kgs. of dry beans.

Agro-climatic conditions in certain parts of the country are favourable for cultivation of Cocoa. As an inter-crop in plantations like coconut and arecanut, there is scope for expansion of cocoa as commercial crop.

Government recognises Cocoa as a suitable crop for inter-cropping in plantations, also to meet the domestic requirements for chocolate industry and eventually as a foreign exchange earner.

No communication has recently been received in this Ministry from Kerala