

- (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

Government regarding the fall in prices and inadequate domestic marketing facilities.

Wage Boards for Workers in Unorganised Sector

*715. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :

SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to constitute Wage Boards for the workers in the unorganised sector who are unable to negotiate effectively even to secure minimum wages;

(b) if so, the details of the sectors likely to be covered; and

(c) when these boards are likely to be constituted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) to (c). The question of setting up Wage Boards for the workers in the unorganised sector is being examined.

Pilot Projects for increase in Rice Production in Orissa

*716, SHRI ANANDI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the Central scheme of pilot projects taken up in Orissa during 1984-85 to increase the productivity and production of rice;

(b) the objectives of the pilot projects;

(c) the future programmes/plans in this regard; and

(d) whether Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will get some special benefit under this programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL GHANDRAKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Rice Pilot Project was taken up in Orissa during 1984-85 in seven blocks.

(b) The objective of the Pilot Project was to identify the constraints operating at block level against steady increase in production and productivity of rice and to overcome some of the constraints amenable to short term remedies.

(c) During the Seventh Five Year Plan 1985-90 a special rice production programme for increasing rice production and productivity would be implemented in six eastern states including Orissa. Under this programme, measures will be taken to overcome both short and long term constraints in rice production.

(d) Under this programme all the farmers including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be benefitted.

Amount Released for Small and Marginal Farmers to Increase Production

*717. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALICK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government have recently released some amount in favour of small and marginal farmers as assistance all over the country to enable them to increase agricultural production; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the amount released ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL GHANDRAKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement showing the details regarding the amount released during 1984-85 under the scheme is laid on the Table of the Sabha.