

and they can return the money within 15 years. Similarly, for the housing scheme for middle income group, that is, for those whose income is between Rs. 600 and Rs. 1500, loans are given upto Rs. 50,000 and the rate of interest is 11.5 %.

**SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO :** This is Housing Board. It is not built up houses. What about government servants ?

**SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR :** Government servants can also avail of this facility and they can construct their houses.

**SHRI A CHARLES :** What are the guidelines given by the Ministry of Housing to the State Governments for preparing schemes for providing houses to the poorest of the poor? In Kerala if a person wants to get the benefit of such a scheme, he should have at least 3 cents of land in the urban area or 5 cents of land in the rural area. There are several lakhs of people, especially in the coastal belt of Kerala who do not own any land. They are living on the government poromboke lands. May I know whether the Government will consider a scheme for providing houses for such people who do not own any land or at least flats to such poorest of the poor ?

**SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR :** This housing scheme is not a centrally sponsored scheme. Housing is a State subject. In the State they can also formulate their own guidelines to give house sites to those persons who have got not even a single inch of land. Either they can subsidise it or they can give it free to them and allow them to construct their own thatched or kacha or pacca one-room or two-room houses. It is for the State Governments to do.

**SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :** Is the Government aware of the fact that according to the guidelines issued to the nationalised banks, only 1 % of their advances is to be given for housing and this comes in the way of faster progress in the matter of housing programmes? If so, will the Government give revised instructions permitting them to give more than 1 %, say, at least 2 or 3 % to enable

this housing problem to be solved in the near future ?

**SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR :** The hon. Member is right. So far as the question of banks is concerned, how much money they should advance, etc.—these things are discussed in detail by the Planning Commission. It is the Planning Commission which sets the target—so much percentage the banks will have to give. For example, from 1983 Rs. 150 crores banks were asked to earmark for the housing sector. So this is not directly dealt with by us.

**SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :** It is the Government which has to take the decision.

**SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR :** The Government has to take decisions in all matters—both in housing and in other matters also.

#### Cotton Production per Hectare

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\*426. **SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :**  
**SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :**

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the production of cotton per hectare;
- (b) whether India has the lowest per hectare production in cotton ;
- (c) if so, the reasons thereof ; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to increase cotton production in the country ?

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) :** (a) and (b). Average production of cotton (lint) in India during the three years 1981-82 to 1983-84 is 158 Kgs. per hectare. This is among the lowest in the cotton growing countries of the world.

(c) The reasons for low productivity of cotton in India, inter-alia, include :—

- (i) Low irrigation coverage ;
- (ii) Inadequacy of quality seeds for sowing ;

(iii) Low application of fertilisers and plant protection measures vis-a-vis high susceptibility of the crop to pests and diseases-especially boll worms.

(d) For increasing cotton production and productivity, a Centrally Sponsored Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) is being implemented by the Government of India in the major cotton growing States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. In addition, the Programme is also in operation in two relatively minor cotton producing States of Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. The main strategy under the Programme consists of expansion of irrigated area under the crop, maximization of area under high yielding hybrids both in irrigated and rainfed conditions, integrated pest management, accelerating the spread of improved technology etc.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that only 15 to 16 per cent of the cotton area under cotton crop is irrigated and the rest is rain-fed ? If so, what special measures have been taken by the Government to provide more irrigation facilities for cotton growing land ? The hon. Minister in his written reply has stated that Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) has been taken up in various States. May I know when this programme was taken up in the various cotton growing States and what is the achievement ? He has also said that through this programme irrigated area will be expanded. May I know whether it is the responsibility of the State Government or through this programme the Union Government will provide funds for more irrigation facilities in cotton growing areas ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, the hon. Member has said that about 15 to 16 per cent area under cotton crop is irrigated. That is not correct. Out of nearly 80 lakh hectares of the area under cotton crop about 28 per cent is irrigated. Much of the irrigated area is located in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. In the traditional cotton growing State of Maharashtra the extent of irrigated area under cotton is

4.6 per cent and Gujarat 30.5 per cent. Non-availability of water at critical stages of growth in rain fed areas drastically reduces the cotton production. That is why I have said in the main answer that the Government is trying seriously to increase the irrigated area under cotton crop.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : What is the cost of irrigation ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : The cost of irrigation as the hon. Member is aware is jointly shared. Mostly it is the State Government but Central Government also helps the States. The hon. Member asked about the integrated projects and the all India schemes introduced by the Government of India. The ICDP was started in 1971-72 and as I have already mentioned it is spreading in almost all States. We are going to expand this central Scheme in almost all the cotton growing States.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : May I know whether it is a fact that the farmers and growers are not interested to have more cultivation under high-yielding varieties of long-staple and super long staple since the textile mills in the country are not interested to purchase those cotton and the farmers are losing a lot.

The textile mills are saying that they are not able to produce more than 40 counts of yarn. If they go for more numbers like 50, 60, 100 and so on, then there will be more excise duty imposed on those yarns. So, what is the Government's reaction to it so that these high yielding varieties will be made more popular ? By this we will be able not only to cater to indigenous demand but we will also be able to export it to other countries. Certified seeds as well as improved seeds of cotton are not adequately supplied to the States where there is demand for them. I am speaking particularly about Orissa. These cotton seeds are not being supplied and also the foundation seeds too. May I know what action Government has taken to supply the required seeds to the cotton growing States ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : So far as supply of seeds is concerned, about 12 lakh hectares of area under cotton cultivation is

covered by hybrid varieties of 100 % certified seeds. Another 4 lakh hectares of area is covered by certified seeds. The remaining 80 % of the area under cotton does not generally receive quality seeds as the farmers are not in a position to retain their own seeds for want of inning facility in villages. The hon. Member wanted to know about long staple varieties of cotton production. It has been increasing. At present the picture is this. Out of total production 42 % is covered by superior long and long varieties and 58 % is covered by superior medium, medium and short medium. Therefore the area under long varieties have risen quite considerably. There was a time about 10 years ago when we were importing long staple varieties. Now we are main exporters of long staple varieties of cotton. This shows that we are not only catering to our internal demand but we have exceeded it. For that matter, we are an exporting country so far as long staple cotton is concerned. Supply of certified seeds is receiving our attention. I am going to convene a meeting of the officers here and also the States people to find out as to how best we can streamline distribution of certified seeds of cotton.

[Translation]

**SHRI AMARSINGH RATHAWA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are many backward and tribal areas in the country where cotton is being produced, but the pesticides, insecticides and fertilisers sold there are adulterated and consequently the production of cotton goes down. Secondly, cotton ripens more in Chhota Udaipur, Distt. Baroda, and the yield of cotton in Gujarat has been very good this year, but the prices are very low. It is quite possible that due to lower prices, the acreage of land under cotton crops might be reduced next year. I would like to ask the hon. Minister if he has any scheme to ensure fair prices to the farmers as also to check the sale of adulterated pesticides and fertilisers.

**SHRI BUTA SINGH :** As the hon. Member has himself said, there has been a bumper crop of cotton this year in Gujarat. Last time also, the State Government of Gujarat had sought the permission for the export of cotton and they were given the permission to export 20 thousand

bales of cotton. It is proposed to grant them further permission to export more cotton, when they approach the Centre, so that growers could get higher prices.

The hon. Member has expressed the fear that due to lower prices, the farmers would reduce the acreage of land under cotton farming, but I do not anticipate such a situation. We shall help the farmers in every way and shall back them up and ensure that they do not reduce the acreage of cotton farming due to lower prices. We shall take steps, in coordination with Gujarat Government, to ensure that the farmers do not reduce the acreage of cotton farming.

[English]

**SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY :** May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Cotton Development Committee which was constituted some time back has also been for the purpose of increasing the productivity per hectare in our country and what role this Committee has been playing in achieving this objective? I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether the support price announced by the Agricultural Prices Commission is remunerative. Sir, it is totally unremunerative and the peasants have no motivation for cotton development and cotton production. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether there would be any attempt to include 'kisans' in the advisory body of the Agricultural Prices Commission and take their advice.

**SHRI BUTA SINGH :** As already announced by the hon. Prime Minister we are trying to enlarge the scope of the Agricultural Prices Commission. It is going to be cost-based and there will be more representatives from the farmers side. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is your desire and you directed that we must make the Agricultural Prices Commission broad-based. The House will be pleased to know that the hon. Prime Minister has already given an indication that there should be more farmers on the Board and they should be from all the areas, from the high-yield growing areas, dry-land farming areas, from the landless labourers etc. Therefore, the hon. Member's point is well taken

and the new constituted cost-based Agricultural Prices Commission will take into account all the suggestions made by the hon. Member.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : The hon. Minister has given many reasons for the low yield of cotton, some of them being non-availability of high-quality seeds and susceptibility to pests. The hon. Minister must be aware that bio-technology is the name of the game in the world today and we have received reports that our Government has entered into protocols with some bio-tech multinational corporations. These corporations have been collecting seeds and plasm of different plants and crops in our country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether his Ministry has been in touch with any of these multinational Corporations about the development of a new hybrid cotton seeds that will give more yield and be more resistant to diseases and whether we have developed something on these lines ourselves.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : At the outset let me make it clear that we are far better so far as bio-technology is concerned. The I.C.A.R. and other Institutes which have been established throughout the country have been doing very well. During the last decade, 60 improved varieties and 15 hybrids have been developed and released for cultivation. One of the important landmarks in the field of varietal improvement was the development of hybrid cotton. India has been the first and the only country to exploit hybrid vigour in cotton. These hybrids had the potential to give yield rates ranging between 40 and 50 quintals per hectare.

Another major achievement is the development and cultivation of long staple and extra long staple varieties of cotton. Until a decade ago, India had been an importer of these varieties for meeting its local requirements. With the development of varieties like Sujata, Suvin and hybrids like H-4, it has been possible to build up sizeable export surpluses in these varieties. India is now an established exporter of long and extra long staple cotton.

I agree with the hon. Member. We have to introduce the latest methods and the

latest discoveries. So far as seed development is concerned, we are quite aware and we are at it.

MR. SPEAKER : You have to assure only one thing and that is availability of very good quality of insecticides : you have to keep a check on that.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Thank you, Sir, I will do that.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Some time ago, you were good enough to observe on behalf of all of us the horror of the House at the mal-practices perpetrated by the fertilizer distributors. My hon. friend from Gujarat has referred to that, but no answer has been given by the Minister. The House, I am sure, will like the Government to take very strong measures in regard to that.

There is another thing ; there is need for co-ordination between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Commerce Ministry. My hon. friend has informed the House that one lakh bales of export of long staple cotton has been ordered the other day, but they have taken too long a time with the result that next year the farmers in Andhra Pradesh who are producing long staple cotton will not have an incentive at all to go ahead with cotton cultivation.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, he will take note of this, as also about fertilizer business. Anyone who adulterates fertilizer or insecticides is a criminal of the first order and he should be treated as such, and very deterrent punishment given. That he should look into.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : But the hon. Minister leaves it to the State laboratories and not to himself. That is the whole trouble.

MR. SPEAKER : Also some Agriculturists should be associated with these things so that we can take good care of these people.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : All right, Sir,