

many years to find tin in the country. As a result of these efforts, small quantities of tin have been located in Tamilnadu, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Haryana. But it is heartening to note that there are possibilities of large reserves of tin being found in Tosham Hills of Haryana.

PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI :

Is it a fact that large reserves of tin have been found in Haryana; if so, is there any scheme before the Government for the exploitation of these reserves and production of tin in the country ?

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have already told there are possibilities of good reserves of tin being found in Tosham Hills of Haryana. The G.S.I. is conducting the survey and detailed exploratory work has been taken up by M.E.C.L. They have chalked out a programme of drilling in an area of 7,000 metres and dredging in a area of 1500 metres. It is heartening to note that by November, 1985, out of the 7,000 metres, drilling in an area of 4,000 metres had been completed and the Hindustan Zinc Limited, an Undertaking of the Ministry of Science and Technology has also taken the lease. It is hoped that a good reserve of tin will be found because the examination of the ore points to the presence of 0.16 per cent tin concentrate in it.

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now, the Hon. Minister has stated that there are good reserves of tin in Madhya Pradesh. I would like to know whether Government propose to take up exploration work of tin and production thereof on commercial basis in Bastar in Madhya Pradesh where good reserves of tin have been struck ? Also what is the quality of tin obtained there ?

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA :

Nowhere in my reply have I said that there are large reserves of tin in Madhya Pradesh, I have mentioned about Tosham which is in Haryana. In reply to the Supplementary asked by the Hon. Member I am to state that a small quantity of tin has been found in Bastar district in Madhya Pradesh and the tribals of that area have extracted this ore through traditional method and have

given it an *image* of bronze by mixing it with copper. Besides, a smelter plant has also been set up in Raipur and I have also stated in my original statement that we are producing about 9.5 tonnes of tin there. This work is being done by the State Mining Corporation of Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

SHRI S. M. GURADDI : Sir, they are importing tin from other countries. How much amount you are spending every year to import tin in this country ?

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA :

Sir, in my statement. I have already referred to how much tin we are importing and what is the value. If he wants, I can lay it on the Table of the House. From Indonesia, we have imported 620 metric tonnes and the value was Rs. 886.87 lakhs for 1984-85. From Malaysia 1685 metric tonnes of tin were imported and the value was Rs. 2444.63 lakhs.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You can lay the entire amount on the Table of the House! (*Interruptions.*)

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : If the Hon. Member would like to know the details, I will place it on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : It is O. K. You put them on the Table of the House. These statistics may be put on the Table of the House.

Neglect of farmers

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*309. SHRI P. R. KUMARAMAN-
GALAM :
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether leaders of farmers movement which met at Hyderabad on January 27, 1986 have drawn Government's attention to the neglect of farmers and if so, the corrective steps proposed to ensure that self-reliance and self-sufficiency in agriculture is maintained; and

(b) whether Government propose to reward improved productivity not only in crops but other protective essential foods like milk, pulses, fruits and vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Press reports have appeared about the meeting of the leaders of farmers movement held at Hyderabad on January 27, 1986. In order to ensure self-reliance and self-sufficiency in agriculture, the Government's policy is to lay emphasis on programmes which will lead to growth in agriculture production and productivity. This is sought to be achieved through increase in cropping intensity made possible by increased availability of irrigation facilities, extension of new agricultural technology to low productivity regions and to small and marginal farmers and through measures to make rural development programmes more effective.

(b) For foodgrains, the Government fix procurement/minimum support prices at remunerative levels to provide incentive for adopting new technology for increasing production and productivity of crops. Higher productivity gets rewarded in higher farm incomes. Higher productivity in milk production is encouraged by Government through schemes like Operation Flood which provides better breeds, animal nutrition, animal health care and fair price and such higher productivity has led to higher incomes for farmers. Moreover milk yield competition awards are given. In the case of fruits and vegetables also, prizes are awarded for better produce.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister through you, whether the various recommendations of the National Commission on Agriculture which made a 17-volume report concerning pricing, productivity, inputs to farmers and other related matters, easy credit, for example, have been implemented. If not, when will they be implemented because the farmers are really in a very bad state of affairs especially the small and marginal farmers who do farming without tractors and without assured irriga-

tion because you are fixing merely floor prices for agricultural commodities?

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, most of the recommendations of the Commission are in operation and the Government is very keen to improve the methodology in raising the status of the farmers and the level of cultivation. The Government's endeavour is to continue with the innovation and improved economic development of our farmers and also apply more and more of modern science and technology to our farming sector.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, in case of fruits and vegetables, the statement laid on the Table of the House categorically says that the only way by which they encourage fruit is by giving prize for better produce. We are not asking prizes for better produce. We want to know what is the encouragement that farmers are given if they produce more fruits not only better fruits. We want better and also more fruits and vegetables because the cost of production of vegetables is going up and the encouragement that should be given to vegetables and fruit industry is almost nil. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Minister in his mind or his Minister has any idea to encourage production of more vegetables, fruits and pulses, which are essential.

S. BUTA SINGH : By the very nature of horticulture produce, vegetables are highly perishable commodities. In addition to increasing the production and productivity of these crops, the most important aspect of the crop is to promote the infrastructure for the development of the post-harvest technology including the development of market intelligence, transportation, processing units for the vegetables and fruits in the private sector and public sector and also corporate sector, especially linkage between production, post-harvest handling, process of promotion of export and domestic marketing. Therefore, we are very keen to provide adequate financial and other assistance to the farmers who are engaged in producing horticulture produce, vegetables and pulses.

The Hon. Minister has touched on a very important aspect of our Indian agriculture. Pulses is an area of concern for the Ministry of Agriculture. We have not been making

much progress on the production of pulses and, therefore, we have devised a Special All-India Project for the development of pulses which will be inaugurated soon and the Government has allocated funds for that, and we propose to promote the production of pulses on a very high priority basis.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : What about preservation and processing ?

S. BUTA SINGH : It is covered under processing.

MR. SPEAKER : We got an assurance for you from the Finance Minister, Mr. Minister, that no paucity of funds will be allowed to stand in the way of purchasing anything which you have fixed up on the floor of the House.

S. BUTA SINGH : Yes Sir.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : It is only in words.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : The greatest neglect of the farmers is evident from the manner in which the procurement prices are fixed. We have been told by the Government, time and again, that before procurement price is determined, account is taken of the cost of inputs which go into production of a crop.

May I know from the Hon. Minister if he knows that during the decade 1971-72 to 1981-82, the cost of inputs alone, according to their own figures, rose by 375.27 per cent whereas the cost of outputs rose nearly by 135 per cent

Does the Hon. Minister consider this ratio or comparison reasonable and rational?

S. BUTA SINGH : There is a regular monitoring through the Economic Adviser's Office and also through the Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices about the increase in the prices of inputs and also relatively the cost of production and especially while fixing the procurement and the support prices, this element is taken into consideration.

It the Hon. Member wants me to give a comparison how from 1979 onwards the input costs have increased and how the Government has been taking very keen interest in seeing that the procurement and support prices do take into account this element, the increase of cost of inputs is also reflected in the price fixed by the Government of India for support.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Is the Hon. Minister satisfied with the parity? Is it rational, logical or not ?

MR. SPEAKER : You can deduce it from his answer.

SHRI ANANDA GAJAPATHI RAJU : I would like to know whether the Government is following any policy pertaining to oil-seeds. Lot of imports are going on in edible oils. Is any policy being followed regarding that, regarding sugar pricing, import and export of sugar?

I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister that lot of protectionist trends are taking place in Western Europe and America regarding agriculture. Will that be corrected, to some extent, by representation by the Indian Government so that we get better prices for small and marginal farmers?

S. BUTA SINGH : Taking into consideration, the importance of production of oil seeds and the requirement of edible oil in the country, the Government of India, under the direction of the Hon. Prime Minister, has mounted a Special Technology Mission for increasing the production of oil seeds and also for adequately providing the processing units in the oil-seed sector, so as to see that the import of oil seeds is completely eliminated. This is how the Government of India proposes to launch a nationwide campaign for the increase in production of oil seeds. We have already approached the progressive States like Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra as also Gujarat for giving special attention in their cropping pattern so that the oil seeds also get the same importance as the other cash crops or other better crops.

Therefore, the Government is fully aware of the need to develop and improve the oil seeds crops in the country.

About the training facilities I missed the last part of the question.

SHRI C. K. KUPPUSWAMY : What are the steps taken by the Government to purchase cotton in the country?

S. BUTA SINGH : As has been announced in this House there was support price announced by the Government and through Cotton Corporation of India the purchase of cotton from the growers is on and most of the States have expressed their satisfaction. I visited Gujarat. I visited Andhra Pradesh...

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Not Andhra anyhow. Your officers are corrupt there.

S. BUTA SINGH : If I were to complete my answer, perhaps Prof Rangaji will be satisfied. Yesterday I was in Andhra Pradesh. I heard this complaint and to-day I am going to take it up with the Minister for Textiles because Andhra growers are facing difficulties ...

AN HON. MEMBER : Karnataka also.

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE : I would like to ask one question about two commodities.

The Minister may recall that when there was an agitation by the peasants on the question of onion prices and the working of the NAFED, we were assured here in this House that firstly NAFED will make adequate purchases arrangements and secondly, storage facilities for onion which are lacking will be provided in different parts.

Secondly, as far as cotton is concerned, because the emphasis and incentive is on manmade and synthetic fibre, the cotton fibre is relegated to the background. 105 lakhs bales of cotton have accumulated this year. Will he therefore, give two assurances: (1) that adequate buffer stocks of cotton will be built up or (2) in the alternative, the government will lift the ban on export of cotton that has already accumulated so that on the one side cotton growers will not suffer and on the other, you will be able to earn a good foreign exchange?

MR. SPEAKER : The third is to limit the imports.

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE : That is obvious.

S. BUTA SINGH : Thank you for adding the third element. We have already taken a decision on the lines suggested by the Hon. Members and added by the Hon. Speaker.

The allocation for the export of cotton has been considerably increased. Last year it was 5 lakhs bales and this year it has been made 10 lakhs bales. We are keeping track of the trends and if necessity arises, we will not hesitate in allowing more cotton to be exported. But here the problem is that we propose that cotton should not go as cotton because in the international market the prices are not competitive. Therefore, the Government lays more emphasis on turning cotton into yarn. Spinning units have been encouraged to produce yarn out of cotton so that our growers can get a better price.

About onion last year there was some problem. This year we have not heard any complaint. The NAFED is doing pretty well. I visited Maharashtra. Yesterday I was in Andhra Pradesh. There is no complaint about onion. Onion this time we are going to export.

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE : What about storage facilities ?

S. BUTA SINGH : That NAFED will take care.

[Translation]

Luni River Basin Project, Rajasthan

*310. **SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Department of Agriculture has approved the Luni River Basin Project in Rajasthan and also sent it to World Bank with a view to solving irrigation and drinking water problem there;

(b) if so, the details of the project report; and