

increase the production of groundnut and oilseeds in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the financial assistance given or proposed to be given to Gujarat for the purpose ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, National Oilseeds Development Project since 1984-85, in important oilseeds growing States including Gujarat with a view to increasing the production of oilseeds including groundnut. Under the Project, 14 Districts in Gujarat have been identified for intensive development of oilseeds, including groundnut. The Project covers production and distribution of quality seeds, distribution of input-kits, production of Rhizobium Culture, conducting large sized demonstrations, providing effective plant protection umbrella and supply of improved Agricultural implements and sprinkler sets.

A sum of Rs. 462.032 lakhs has been sanctioned to Gujarat State during 1986-87. Out of this the share of the Government of India is Rs. 251.016 lakhs and the share of Gujarat State is Rs. 211.016 lakhs.

[Translation]

SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Government of Gujarat has submitted a scheme for the development of groundnut and oilseeds cultivation in Gujarat to the Central Government and if so, the details

thereof and what concrete steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by the Centre to implement that scheme ?

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Strike in Textile Mills in Maharashtra

*142. SHRI VLLAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State :

(a) the particulars of textile mills in Maharashtra where strike is going on and since when this strike has been continuing ;

(b) the main demands of the employees ;

(c) the steps taken by the Ministry so far to end the strike ; and

(d) the extent of loss suffered due to the strike ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) According to the information received from the Government of Maharashtra, the appropriate authority under I.D. Act, 1947, there is at present no strike in any textile mill in the State.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

New Technique to Increase Agricultural Production

*145. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new technique has been introduced to increase the agricultural production in various parts of the country ;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ; and

(c) the places where this new technique has been introduced and the expected increase in production as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) A Statement is given below.

(c) The spread of the technology is undertaken by the State Governments in all potential areas. The improvements in agricultural technologies and techniques have been reflected in the record production of foodgrains, i.e. 152.37 million tonnes in the year 1983-84.

Statement

(a) and (b) The increase in agricultural production is a very broad issue. It involves numerous crops, both foodgrains and cash crops, and requires continuous upgrading of our knowledge and techniques in regard to their cultivation. Very significant technological advances have been made in this country in breeding high yielding varieties of seed, particularly in wheat and paddy, and in developing more scientific use of water, chemical fertilizers and of plant protection measures against pests and diseases. Considerable research has also been done on the appropriate use of manures and bio-fertilizers as well as on the biological methods in pest control. In order to reduce human drudgery and the time involved in various agricultural operations, new improved farm tools and machinery have been developed. Following a considerable expansion of irrigation facilities in the country, both of major and medium projects as well as privately owned minor irrigation works such as energised tube and dug-wells, major improvements have been made in the operational techniques for better water distribution, development of field channels and land improvement. Attention has also been focussed on improving the techniques of farming under rainfed conditions. These include techniques for *in situ* moisture conservation, harvesting of run-off water, and the spread of appropriate cropping patterns that ensure remunerative returns to the farmer even in case of aberrant rainfall conditions.

The new techniques developed in the Agricultural Universities and Research Stations are communicated to the farmers through field level extension services and in most States we have now introduced a systematic training and visit pattern of extension. The modernisation of traditional agriculture involves considerable investment in terms of irrigation, land development, and use of cash inputs. For this reason, credit and marketing networks have been developed to support the farmers' efforts. In brief, there are eight vital inputs to agricultural production—seed, fertilizer, plant protection, machinery, irrigation, extension, credit, and marketing facilities and Government strives to have a symphonic development of newer and better techniques in all these spheres to ensure increase in agricultural production. The search for yet better techniques continues and some of the frontier technologies are tissue culture, biotechnology, genetic engineering.

[English]

Use of Asbestos in Industries

*147. SHRI S.M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken note of the international convention recently adopted by the International Labour Organisation Conference restricting the use of asbestos, a mineral which can cause fatal lung diseases ;

(b) whether Government have asked the industries using asbestos to provide adequate protection to workers ; and

(c) if so, when did Government ask the industries to undertake safety measures and what were the instructions issued ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) The International Labour Organisation in the 72nd Session held in June, 1986, adopted a Convention and Recommendation on safety in the use of Asbestos. The authenticated version of the Convention and Recommendation are awaited.