

of the problems which I am going to take up because we have windows to help labourers in filling up the forms where the forms have not been properly filled. One of the reasons why computerisation is being done is to have one window system. There are some other reasons also. I do not want to go into the rights or wrongs of the unions questioning whether computerisation should be done or not, but I think if ultimately we have to help the poor worker to get his hard earned dues after his retirement, we have to see to it that he does not have to come again and again. Once the chit comes on the computer, he gets his money.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Sir, as regards the provident fund which is to be paid by the employers in respect of the workers, there is a big default. I would like to know whether the Government have taken prosecution steps against the employers who have defaulted and if so, in how many cases such steps have been taken. Also I would like to know whether there is a huge amount of provident fund of the workers lying unclaimed with the Government and if so, what are the reasons for this amount lying unclaimed.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Sir, there are a large number of prosecution cases pending. I have the Statewise list with me. I can read it out, but the total is 29,974. The average number of cases which are filed per month is 497. The second part of your question is regarding the amount lying unclaimed by the workers. If the money is there, it is not because it is not claimed.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : I mean the money which is not disbursed. Instead of saying 'unclaimed', I will say 'undisbursed'.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I have just given the amount when the hon. Member asked how much money we have disbursed. If it is not being claimed, what can we do?

Production and Requirement of Quality Seeds

*264. **SHRI P.M. SAYEED :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is dearth of quality

seeds in the country leading to low agricultural production ;

(b) if so, the reasons for low availability of quality seeds ;

(c) the extent of shortfall of the quality seeds vis-a-vis the requirement ;

(d) the crops whose production has suffered on this account ; and

(e) the cost of production and selling price of seeds sold by the National Seeds Corporation and the steps taken to make available quality seeds to the farmers at reasonable prices ?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) to (e). A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. For some crops like oil-seeds and pulses, there is shortage of certified seeds.

(b) Production of certified seeds involves three stages i.e. breeder, foundation seed and certified seed. That requires three years advance planning. Any adverse seasonal conditions during anyone of the stages of production may have adverse affect on the availability of certified seeds. Successive drought for the last three years has severely impeded seed production and its availability particularly in certain crops like groundnut, soyabean and gram which require a high seed rate.

(c) Details are given in Annexure-I below.

(d) Local arrangements were made for procurement of quality seeds ; hence there was no significant loss in agricultural production due to shortage of seeds.

(e) Details showing the cost of production and sale price of certified seed by the National Seeds Corporation are given in Annexure II below. Seed is distributed through NSC/SFCI/State Departments of Agriculture/13 State Seed Corporations.

Annexure-I

Shortfall of Certified Seed During Rabi, 1987-88

(Quantity in Quintals)

Crop	Quantity
Cereals	
Wheat	About 4 lakh quintals of wheat grain procured from FCI was supplied to States of Bihar and Jammu and Kashmir for use as seed after testing for germination and processing.
Maize	66,695
Pulses	
Gram	1,14,935
Lentil	26,161
Peas	21,780
Urad	1,046
Moong	6,111
Arhar	240
Oilseeds	
Groundnut	160
Rape/Mustard	16,964
Sunflower	8,618
Linseed	7,871
Castor	399
Safflower	175

Annexure-II

Cost of Certified Seed Production During 1986-87 and its Sale Price During 1987-88 of National Seeds Corporation

(Rupees per quintal)

Sl. No.	Crop	Total cost of production during 1986-87*	Sale price during 1987-88
1	2	3	4
		Rs.	Rs.
1.	Wheat	464.37	425

1	2	3	4
		Rs.	Rs.
2.	Paddy (Rice)	456.54	425—1400
3.	Maize	533.46	650— 700
4.	Sorghum	1,035.65	600—1100
5.	Bajra	797.63	800—1100
6.	<i>Pulses</i>	952.93	
	(i) Moong		1,100
	(ii) Urad		1,200
	(iii) Lentil		1,000
	(iv) Cowpea		1,100
	(v) Arhar		1,150
	(vi) Pea		1,000
	(vii) Gram		900
7.	<i>Oilseeds</i>	968.89	
	(i) Soyabean		1,100
	(ii) Castor		920—1650
	(iii) Sunflower		1,800—3200
	(iv) Safflower		1,000
	(v) Mustard		1,500
	(vi) Toria		1,500
	(vii) Sesamum		2,400
	(viii) Groundnut		1,500
	(ix) Linseed		1,400

*All incidental costs added upto ex-godown price.

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices is stated to have revealed that the availability of certified seeds in India works out to barely seven per

cent of the requirement of cereals. For oilseeds it is still worse—3.4 per cent. For pulses and for wheat it is seven per cent and for rice, a little over ten per cent. May I know from the hon. Minister what are the steps being taken for the availability of the best quality of seeds and other inputs to the

farmers at reasonable price, and whether the Government has any scheme to see that the newer variety of seeds are developed for better productivity of the farm ?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of quality seeds is concerned, the Government has tried its best to see that the farmers get good quality seeds and fertilisers. Last year, there was no shortage of seeds especially of coarse grains. Last year, i.e. during the financial year upto 31st March, 1988 there has been shortfall of only 4 lakh quintals of wheat seeds. Three lakh quintals were supplied to Bihar and one lakh to Jammu and Kashmir. The shortfall was the result of less production due to drought. Wheat seed was tested and certified seed has been supplied to these States. Government will try its best to see that there is no shortage of seeds in future. If the hon. Member has got any complaint, he should give it in writing and we will look into it. I would like to quote from the figures that 18 lakh quintals of wheat seed has been distributed to farmers in the States and similarly, paddy seed has also been distributed to the farmers in the country. There has been no shortage of seeds during the last 4-5 years.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Bhajan Lalji has quoted from the figures.

[*English*]

It is merely a statistics.

[*Translation*]

What is the reaction of the Government to the charges levelled by Shri S.S. Johel, the Chairman of the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission, against the Seed Corporation ?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : What are those charges ?

[*English*]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : The Chairman has raised the following in his report :

- “(1) NSC is beyond the reach of common farmer.
- (2) Production cost of wheat seed is

more than double the procurement price.

- (3) Charging exorbitantly from the farmers ;
- (4) Seeds of promising varieties start leaking from hands of breeders ;
- (5) Seeds Corporations have made undue investments leading to huge losses.”

[*Translation*]

These charges had been levelled by a prominent economist. So what is the reaction of the Government thereto ? The Chairman had also levelled charges against National Seed Corporation and State Seed Corporations. May I know whether the Government will look into these charges ? if not, why ?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chairman has levelled two charges. One is that the Government supplies seeds to farmers at exorbitant rates and procures foodgrains at low rates from them. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you yourself know much about agriculture, you are a Krishi Pandit. You must be aware that considerable amount is incurred on preparing seeds.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : He is Pandit of both.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : The cost of production of the wheat seed to the Government during 1986-87 was Rs. 464.37 per quintal and it was sold to the farmers @ Rs. 425 per quintal. This is a fact. I am also a small farmer. The cost of production of the paddy seed was Rs. 450 per quintal and it was sold @ Rs. 425 per quintal to farmers. The cost of Basmati's seed per quintal is slightly higher.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : If seeds are distributed to all the small farmers, then situation will definitely improve.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Procurement price is definitely somewhat on the lower side. Production of seeds as compared to other crops and seeds is definitely on a lower side. As regards safeguards against any deficiency in the seeds, we process and test the seeds before distribution to farmers.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : May I know whether the statement given by Johel Sahab is wrong ?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : What can I say about the statement ? I am giving you the data. The Chairman might have said but it has not come to my notice. I have not seen it. You give me in writing, I will look into it and remove the deficiency, if found. Production of paddy seed was more than the demand. It was about 1 lakh 78 thousand quintal. The production of wheat seed was more than 3 lakh quintal. Similarly, the seed of Maize and Jowar was in surplus. As regards millet, there are some difficulties. The millet is mainly produced in Gujarat and due to drought for the last 2 to 3 years there, production of millet has been slightly less.

SHRI YASHPAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Agriculture furnishing figures has accepted that the cost of production of seeds is higher than the rates on which these are supplied to the farmers. Can he say such things as a farmer also ? As a small farmer, I also agree that the cost of production of seeds is more, but I can say that the seed is supplied to the farmers at very high rates by the National Seed Corporation and other seed supplying agencies. There is a scope and they are competent to reduce these rates. I had been Agriculture Minister in one State and tried my best to bring down the rates of seeds during my tenure. I believe that the rates may be brought down if steps are taken in this regard.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, National Seed Corporation and other State Seed Farms produce seeds in very small quantity. The Government agencies produce only around 2 lakh quintal of seed. Rest of the seed is produced by farmers privately. The Government only certifies it. The profit is pocketed by farmers themselves. The Government does not earn any profit. Question of earning profit does not arise as the seed is supplied on no profit no loss basis to the farmers. State Governments also maintain their seed farms. They produce good quality of seed and supply it to the farmers.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the position regarding the

production of seeds explained by the hon. Minister is practically correct. I agree that production of seeds involves considerable expenditure. Being mainly an agricultural country, may I know why the Government do not propose to enhance the production of seeds in the interest of agricultural advancement and for boosting agricultural production in the country ? Why are the Government agencies producing seeds in such a low quantity ?

MR. SPEAKER : He has already replied to it.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already made it clear with data that the Government is quite conscious and want to encourage agriculture in the country. As you know, besides the availability of good quality of seeds, manures and fertilizers to encourage agriculture, assistance from universities is also made available so that the farmers utilise the know-how and increase their production. As regards irrigation, the Government is supplying power and making available the tubewells facility so that the farmers may have the maximum benefit.

Package of Concessions for Farmers

*265. †**SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :**

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the concessions announced by the Prime Minister for farmers while inaugurating the 25th Conference of Bharat Krishak Samaj held recently ;

(b) the time by which these concessions will be given ; and

(c) the annual cost on account of these concessions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Prime Minister in his Inaugural