

the Seventh Plan Document is as under :

Rural males	2.32%
Rural females	1.76%
Total	2.15%

The data on rural unemployment are collected periodically by the National Sample Survey Organisation.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
As far as rural unemployment is concerned, it is increasing every year. Has the Government got any plan to reduce the rate of increase in unemployment and provide gainful employment to the rural population in India ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
There are a number of schemes of the Government of India to provide gainful employment to the rural population. The Government of India are giving the money and the schemes are being implemented by the State Governments. All these schemes like IRDP, NREP, TRYSON, etc., are for generation of employment in the rural areas.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
What are the minimum wages that are paid to the rural labourers ? The minimum wages had been fixed a long time back. Is there any plan with the Government to increase the minimum wage paid to the rural employees ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The minimum wages differ from State to State and they are decided by the State Governments looking to their socio-economic conditions.

Spice prices

*816. **DR. V. VENKATESH :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether prices of spices have increased during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether prices of some of the spices have remained steady;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any steps have been taken to ensure remunerative prices to the growers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (d). The All-India Index Numbers of wholesale prices for spices during the last two years showed a mixed trend. Whereas the indices for Black Pepper, Cumin and Cloves showed an increasing trend, those of Chillies, Turmeric, Cardamom and Ginger registered decline.

(e) and (f). Minimum support prices for spices are currently not being announced by the Government of India. No State Government has also come forward with any proposal for market intervention.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Sir, here also, there is a disparity. You know pretty well that I am coming from a drought-prone area, that is, Kolar district. Chillies and Ginger are the items which are produced from the drought-prone districts of the country. Here, there is a decline in the production of Chillies and Ginger, etc. Therefore, why this disparity is there ? Why the Government is not coming forward at least, where the drought-prone districts in this country are affected doubly by getting the water from the deepest sources from where they are getting these things ? Why the Government is not coming forward to support this ? Whether there is any policy of the Government of India in this regard ? I want to know categorically.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, the Government of India is ready to help any part of the country. It is for the State Governments to come forward to the Government of India and to request for the market intervention. In case, if the State Government is coming forward and request

to the Government of India for the market intervention, we are prepared to intervene in the matter.

DR. V. VENKATESH : The State Governments have been approaching the Centre for a drought-prone quota. But for that programme they have not laid any condition. That is my point.

Sir, my second supplementary is regarding the minimum support price for this spices. The Government has said they have not taken any action. They have not made any formulation about this. How long will the Government take to decide to support the prices? Has the Government got any idea to give a supporting price even before sowing the seeds? Is there any idea? I want to know.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, the Government's price policy is very clear and it is in favour of the farmers. And in case of the commodities where the market prices are falling, the Government is fixing the prices and procuring at a fixed price. But, so far as the spices are concerned, the prices are always ruling high. And, therefore, it is not necessary to fix the support price of the spices. But, in respect of the commodities where the prices go down, the Government is fixing the prices and procuring it.

[Translation]

Sunlight gardens

*819. **SHRI SWAMI PRASAD SINGH :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a garden has been developed in the USA where sunlight is available for 24 hours;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to develop such gardens in India also;

(d) if so, the scheme of Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

MR. SPEAKER : Any supplementaries? No.

I will now have the second round.

Shri Yashwantrao Gadakh Patil	... Not present
Shri Prakash Chandra	... Absent
Shri Subhash Yadav	.. Not present
Shri Mohanbhai Patel	... Not present
Shri R. S. Mane	... Absent
Shri Hussain Dalwai	... Not present
Shri Daulatsinhji Jadeja	... Not present
Shri Ananta Prasad Sethi	... Not present
Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik	... Absent
Dr. G. Vijaya Rama Rao	... Not present

And I think by that time, the time is also over. The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Vacant plots of Delhi Development Authority

*800. **SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL :** Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of plots earmarked by the Delhi Development Authority for Multi-storied buildings lying vacant in Delhi;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to start the construction activity thereon?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) 21 such plots have been lying vacant.