

Nagpur and the people also told me about it. In the meeting held by the scientists, this issue was also discussed to protect orange crops from diseases and improve its quality and yield. For this, we have opened a research centre at Nagpur, which gives demonstrations to the farmers about the method of spraying on orange crops. Regarding rice, we give full information to the farmers as to the kinds of its diseases and how to check those diseases, programmes are run by the Agriculture Department the I.C.A.R. and the University. The three of them are making efforts so that crops of farmers can get less affected by the diseases.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether Basmati rice has also been included in this research being undertaken as it takes a long time in maturing. Its export has increased a great deal and it is also popular in our country, so research should be done as to how it could be made early maturing variety with more ear of corn. May I know whether any research is being conducted in this regard and if it is so details thereof?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Basmati and Panmal varieties, which take long time in maturing are also included in this research. We want that Basmati rice should mature early, so that the farmer can sow another crop. But until a variety is developed I cannot say anything. We are making efforts to develop a variety of Basmati rice having more ears of corns.

New Seed Policy

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*23. SHRI R.M. BHOYE:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have recently formulated 'New Seed Policy' which seeks to secure for the farmers-high quality of seeds available anywhere in the World to maximise their yield and increase productivity and farm income; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether it has been put into operation?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE: (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the New Policy on Seed Development is laid on the table of the House [Placed in Library See No. LT-6706/88]. The New Policy has come into effect from 1st October, 1988.

[Translation]

SHRI R.M. BHOYE: Mr. Speaker, the reply has been given. But my question about the various diseases which inflict high yielding crops has not been replied by the Minister. My question is whether the Government propose to do something about the disease which inflict the high yielding crops?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, there is a separate arrangement for the disease which is raging in the country at present, but your question was about the crops under the New Seed Policy and I have stated in this connection that whatever seed is imported from abroad will be fully tested to find out its growth rate and whether it is inflicted by any disease or not. Then only the seed will be taken after getting custom's clearance. The seed will not be taken and will remain stocked there till the time it is tested and found that it is not inflicted by any disease. These are the arrangements which have been made in this regard.

SHRI R.M. BHOYE: Mr. Speaker, have any arrangements been made to supply the seeds of high-yielding crops to the farmers at subsidised rates because they do not get much money from the crops sown by them? Have some improvements been made in the New Seed Policy in the interest of the poor farmers, so that they may get some assistance?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker the small and medium farmers can purchase imported seeds and the other facilities which are provided otherwise, will also be available to them. If farmers themselves

want to import seeds, they can do so. This facility has been included in it.

[English]

SHREEMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: In reply to the question, a long statement has been laid on the Table, but the kernel of the new policy is the import of seeds. The rest is all verbose. Therefore, I would like to know this: Are the Government aware that eminent scientists and intellectuals and peasants' organizations, either without party affiliations or belonging to different parties, both ruling and the Opposition, such as Amir Singh, First Head of the Division of Seed Technology at the Agricultural Research Institute and founder-president of the Indian Society of Seed Technology, Prof. S.S. Joshi, Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices and member of the Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister....

MR. SPEAKER: Are you reading a statement, Madam?

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing-or, are you making a statement?

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: No, Sir, I am asking whether they know this. Do they know that in addition to those persons, peasants organizations having different political views have also strongly disapproved of this seed import policy, saying that this has harmed the country?

From the point of view of the fact that it sabotages the indigenous R & D, this quality control under OGL will be impossible. These steps will affect the production and unnecessarily give profit to multinationals resulting in outgo of foreign exchange. Is the government aware of this criticism and the different views? In view of this, will the government give a second thought to it and change this disastrous seed import policy?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: I think the hon. member has not cared to look into her question. The question itself relates to the new seed policy that has been de-

clared. Therefore, this whole policy has been laid on the Table of the House. Secondly, the objections that are raised or the different opinions that have been expressed are bound to be there. But the fact is that in the field of coarse cereals, vegetables, flowers and fruits, we have not been able to develop a hybrid variety and there has been a stagnation. I must say that it goes to the credit of the hon. Prime Minister that he took an initiative in this matter in July this year and within two months this policy was prepared and placed before the country in September and was made effective from the First of October.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: It is not a good policy.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: It is not like that particularly in wheat and paddy no import is being allowed. On the major crops that we sow, there is no relaxation.

Only on coarse grains, pulses and oilseeds, there is a permission for importing by identified categories. But there is a written condition that they have to import seeds and they have to enter into a collaboration with the foreign senders, the breeders within two years; and after two years, they will transfer the technology of parent seeds in the country; and beyond two years, they cannot import. Therefore, there is no open OGL on that aspect. Only on vegetables and flowers, there is OGL but that is also for a hybrid variety. Therefore, this thing will not adversely affect any R & D in our country; and our scientists are engaged in this task and they can continue it. This policy on the other hand has been widely welcomed by our different sections of population, the farmers, the people and scientists and other people who are working in the agricultural field. You can kindly go through some of the papers related to it.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : In the case of imported seeds, the field trial will be conducted for one season only which is not sufficient. Before you import, the field trial should be conducted for three seasons and not for one season. We are witnessing

pests and other diseases on the seed fields. Will the Minister consider this suggestion of conducting the field test at least for a minimum of three crops and inform the concerned government from where we are importing them? This is an important item.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: We are testing it at the port of entry at the initial stage. As I said, in the case of coarse grains, pulses and oilseeds, it is only for two years that they will import them.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: It is written here that it is only for one season by ICAR.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: When it comes for the first time, then it will be tested and examined.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: It is mentioned here that it is only for one season. I want that it should be for three crop seasons as per the law.

SHRI SHAYAM LAL YADAV: The seeds that come for the first time will be tested.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: He has not understood my question.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make this question somewhat more clear. Whatever seed is imported, it will be tested and certified by I.C.A.R. that the seed is suitable for the Indian soil and that it is free from any disease. Till the seed is certified by the I.C.A.R. it will not be supplied to the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: His question is : will there be field trial for three seasons before it is released.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : When the seed is received it will be tested for one year by us and will be released thereafter. If we wait for three years, the value of the seed will be lost.

[*English*]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: Still, he has not understood my question (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Your reply has come.

SHRIMATI USHA THAKKAR: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a question in connection with what has been said about the import of seeds from abroad. In a meeting of the Advisory Committee held in our State, non-availability of chicori seed was mentioned therein. The farmers of Jamnagar district have also demanded chicori seed from you. My request to you is that you must supply chicori seeds to them. Have you thought about the import of chicori seed?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, chicori seed is imported from abroad, about 5000 kg chicory seed has been imported from Holland till October this year.

[*English*]

Talks with Pakistan Regarding Assistance to Terrorists

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*24. SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up with the present Government of Pakistan the matter for putting an end to direct or indirect assistance by them to terrorists in India; and

(b) if so, the response of Pakistan Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Pakistan has stated that it does not and will not provide any support to extremist activities directed