

(b) and (c). Supply of foodgrains to Maharashtra has not been inadequate. Lifting of foodgrains by the State from the Central Pool in 1988 has been higher than in the corresponding period of the last year. The allocation from the Central Pool is, however, only supplemental in nature to the open market availability and its further distribution within the State including coverage and scale of issue to the consumers is for the concerned States to decide.

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what was the demand for rice and wheat by the State and what is the supply against that demand as far as rice and wheat are concerned.

SHRI SUKH RAM: Sir, is he referring to the demand for the current year or for the last year?

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH: The hon. Minister has given the figures. He has allocated a quantity of 17.95 lakh tonnes of foodgrains against their demand of 23.80 lakh tonnes. I would like to have a bifurcation of that in terms of wheat and rice.

SHRI SUKH RAM: The demand for the year for rice was 9.55 lakh tonnes and for wheat it was 14.25 lakh tonnes. Against that, allotment in the case of rice was 7.50 lakh tonnes and in the case of wheat it was 10.45 lakh tonnes. Against that allotment, the off-take was 5.91 lakh tonnes in the case of rice and 8.56 lakh tonnes in the case of wheat. This figure is available up to October. So, the off-take was less than what was allotted to Maharashtra.

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH: Sir, it is surprising to hear this answer from the hon. Minister that the lifting was less than what was allotted. The lifting was less because of non-availability of rice and wheat in the FCI

Godowns in Bombay and other Godowns in the State of Maharashtra. Is it not a fact that the FCI Godowns were empty during the months of August, September and October? Is it not a fact that supply of rice was made available after the landing of the ship at Bombay Port? If it is so, then why it was allowed to remain so? Secondly, the hon. Minister has already stated in his reply that the allocation from the Central Pool is, however, only supplemental. Sir, you know, the State of Maharashtra is a deficit State, as far as foodgrains are concerned. Is it a fact that the Government are not allowing the State to purchase rice from the other States which are having surplus? If it is so, then what is the reason? What steps the Government are thinking to take to help the deficit States?

SHRI SUKH RAM: Only one instance, probably in the month of September, came to my notice about the non-availability of rice with the FCI Godowns in Maharashtra. I immediately issued instructions to the FCI that rice should be diverted to Maharashtra and the shortage in supply should be made up immediately. But thereafter, I did not receive any complaints. It may be in one or two instances that rice was not available with the FCI. But as far as the other months are concerned, I did not receive any complaints. Even rice was available in Maharashtra in the month of November to the tune of 36,302 tonnes. This is the quantity which was available with the FCI.

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH: Sir, my questions were fully not answered. (*Interruptions*)

Increase in Agricultural Labour

*380. **DR. A.K. PATEL †:**
SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agricultural labour in the country at present;

(b) the percentage increase in their number as compared to 1950-51;

(c) whether the increase in work opportunities for them in agricultural operations has been proportionate to the increase in agricultural production since 1950-51; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) The number of agricultural labourers as per 1981 census (latest available) is 55.50 million.

(b) The increase in agricultural labourers in 1981 works out to 176% over 1951.

(c) and (d). Between 1950-51 and 1987-88 agricultural production has increased by 153.7%. However, reliable data for computing the increases in work opportunities for agricultural labourers in agricultural operations is not available. What is achieved through more intensive agriculture and increases in agricultural production is not the only means for providing employment to agricultural labourers in rural areas. Keeping this in view, employment generation programmes such as NREP, RLEGP, IRDP etc. have been undertaken for the creation of employment opportunities in the rural sector.

[*English*]

SHRI A.K. PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised to read the reply of the Hon. Minister especially to parts (c) & (d) that reliable data is not available. Most of the agricultural labourers are from SC and ST class and they are below the poverty line. Hon. Prime Minister has so often said that he

wants to uplift the people who are below the poverty line. When the hon. Minister is not having the data, how is he going to uplift the people those who are below the poverty line?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, either the hon. Member has not appreciated fully what I have stated just now or there might be some lacking on my part to make it more clear. I have stated that employment generation programmes such as NREP, RLEGP, IRDP etc. are under implementation for providing employment to the people living below poverty line in the rural areas. I want to inform the hon. Member that during the Sixth Plan about Rs. 1,600 crores were provided in the shape of financial assistance by the Central and State Governments and Rs. 3,101 crores were provided as loans by the banks under the IRDP scheme. The total of these two amounts comes to Rs. 4,762.78 crores. This amount was made available for IRDP alone. Similarly, I will give the year-wise details of the amounts made available during the first three years of the Seventh Five Year Plan and they are as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amounts</i>
1985-86	Rs. 24 crores
1986-87	Rs. 35 crores
1987-88	Rs. 39 crores

For IRDP alone, about Rs. 10 thousand crores have been spent since its inception in 1980.

Similarly, there are other schemes like NREP and RLEGP. An amount of Rs. 531 crores was spent for NREP in 1985-86 and 316400000 mandays were generated. Similarly, under RLEGP, Rs. 453 crores were spent and 247500000 mandays were gener-

ated. In the same way, in 1986-87 under NREP, 717.77 crores were spent and 39 crores and 53 lakh of mandays were generated. Under RLEGP 635.91 crores were spent and 30 crores and 60 lakhs of mandays were generated.

In 1987-88, 33.74 crore mandays were created by investing Rs. 788.30 crore under N.R.E.P. whereas 33.20 crore mandays were created by spending Rs. 649.84 crore under R.L.G.E.P.

Similarly, in 1988-89, under N.R.E.P., 15 crore mandays have been created by spending Rs. 324 crores whereas 10.30 crore mandays have been created by spending Rs. 260 crores under R.L.G.E.P.

I mean to say that this is a different scheme. In response to the question asked about the agricultural labour, I am to say that an agricultural labourers does not depend upon the agriculture labour only. There are some other schemes also for their benefit on which Government of India have spent and is still spending a lot of money for them.

[*English*]

SHRI A.K. PATEL: I am not impressed with the reply of the hon. Minister. These schemes which are just mentioned and which are going on especially in Gujarat — from my experience in my State I would say — have hardly 10% of implementation. The rest of the money is corrupted. It does not generate any job to the really needy persons. I would like to know what steps the Minister is going to take for this purpose.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has said that hardly 10 percent of the total amount is spent in proper and rest of the money goes into the pockets of corrupt officers. In this connection, I may say that

hon. Member should give in writing in which scheme and which officers, even if some one has been retired, have done bungling so that we may conduct an enquiry against the erring officers, simply saying that this is happening in a particular State cannot help. Please be practical and tell clearly in which particular scheme bungling has been done. The Government of India will definitely get the matter enquired and ask the State Government to take action against the guilty officers and the State Government would take action against the persons who will be proved guilty.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Due to non-implementation of land reforms, the number of landless persons and agricultural labour is increasing in our country. Marginal farmers are losing their lands gradually because they have to sell their agriculture land due to poverty. In this manner, they are becoming labourers from farmers. We want to know the programme under which Government intends to implement land reforms? What action the Government is taking to distribute the land which is in the possession of the Government, to acquire the land of landlords who have thousand acres of land and to distribute the same among the agricultural labourers so that their economic position is improved.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank him for asking this question in Hindi. Hindi should be used in our country.

The Land Reforms Act was made by the Government of India and its very purpose was to distribute the land among the landless and the poor by acquiring the land of big landlords. 70 lakh acre land has been declared surplus in whole of the country and out of this 45 lakh acre land has been distributed among the poor and landless persons. 25 lakh acre land could not be distributed because the concerned parties have ob-

tained stay orders from various courts. A conference of the State Revenue Ministers is going to be held in the next month in which they will be directed to engage special advocates so that these cases may be disposed of early and the landless persons may get land.

MR. SPEAKER: Please get this point also examined as to what should be the minimum economic holding? What is the use of giving him a piece of land which may prove to be uneconomic.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 43 per cent of total population of our country is agricultural labour, who hardly get employment for three months in a year. That is why 75 thousand agricultural labourers of my State go to Punjab and Haryana and work on the farms. The people of this State have not got any advantage from the beneficial schemes such as R.L.E.G.P. and N.R.E.P. and the agricultural labourers do not get employment. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether some schemes other than these are under the consideration of the Government which may provide them employment at their homes and in their own districts.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have already said many Government of India sponsored schemes are being implemented in the States so that employment could be provided to educated and uneducated people of rural areas. Government is giving subsidy for many employment schemes and for small scale industries. The Government also tries to make arrangement for the supply of raw-materials to them. The Government also arrange sale of their finished goods. Many schemes have been formulated for this and the people should make use of them. There is no doubt that masses do not get as much benefit as it

ought to be. Its reason is that people are not coming forward to take advantage of these schemes. These schemes have not been given wide publicity at some places. The representatives of people should also inform the public about these schemes and tell them that they have been chalked out to benefit the farmers and the poor. The elected representatives should try to attract the attention of the people towards these schemes so that they may take full advantage of these schemes. The Government is making every effort to provide employment to all the unemployed persons and all these schemes have been formulated to achieve this end.

[*English*]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: I would like to know whether it is a fact that several lakhs of small and marginal farmers have become landless? Has any study been made to find out what are the reasons for this situation to develop? In your presence at Hyderabad, the Prime Minister had announced at a conference of farmers that he will do away with the system of compound interest on agricultural loans. I would like to know what steps have been taken by the Government to allow only simple interest on the loans taken by the farmers in view of the Prime Minister's assurance?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that the Prime Minister had gone there and made some announcements in the function which was presided over by you. All the assurances which were given by the Prime Minister have been implemented. There is no such assurance which remains to be implemented. He had made 3-4 general announcements about which I want to tell you. He had said that the people of the drought affected areas who are not in a

position to repay loans can repay it in seven years instead of repaying in 2 years and the people of the area which had suffered drought for three years can repay the loan in ten years. He has also assured bring down the rate of interest and it had been brought down. (*Interruptions*)...

[*English*]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: He promised simple interest.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: I am telling the same thing. As far as the question of simple interest is concerned, the compound interest will not be charged from the people of drought affected areas strictly. If a principal amount of Rs. 10,000 becomes Rs. 25,000 by charging compound interest, then the amount of Rs. 25,000 will not be recover in full. The interest equal to the principal amount will be charged and the rest of the interest will be written off. These orders have already been issued.

[*English*]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: He promised to the farmers only simple rate of interest on the agricultural crop loans and to stop imposing compounding rate of interest on farmers.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: The loan taken for agriculture should be paid on time. If it not repaid on time, how it will do. That should be repaid on time.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

"Pooyankutty Hydel Project in Kerala"

*375. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether final clearance has been accorded by Union Government to the Pooyankutty Hydel Project in Kerala;

(b) whether Government have given clearance to any other Hydro Electric Projects in the State of Kerala during 1987 and 1988; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total estimated loss of forest areas covered under the projects sanctioned during 1987 to 88?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of Dharavi Slums in Bombay

*376. DR. DATTA SAMANT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the development of Dharavi slums in Bombay;

(b) the details of the amount spent, the number of new houses constructed and other development project undertaken; and

(c) the reasons for slow progress of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT