

1. Standardization of detection techniques of bunchy top of banana by Indian Agricultural Research Institute Centre at Pune and Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore.
2. Simple methods for early detection of viruses by all existing laboratories.
3. Training Course by Advance centre at I.A.R.I.
4. Documentation of available information by I.A.R.I., New Delhi, National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal and ICRISAT, Hyderabad.

(d) All the virology centres were advised to undertake immediate steps for implementation of the above action plan. However, the organization of the first training course would need preparatory work of about six months.

Crash Agricultural Production Programme

*911. SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH :
DR. G. S. RAJHANS :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Bihar, has submitted to Union Government a plan for implementation of the Centrally sponsored Crash-Agricultural Production Programme for increasing farm production in the State;

(b) if so, the details of the plan;

(c) whether Union Government have approved the same; and

(d) if so, the details of assistance given/proposed to be given to Bihar Government to implement the plan ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) The Union Government evolved Special Foodgrains Production Programme in consultation with 14 States and Bihar is one of them. Accordingly, a mutually agreed Special Foodgrains Production Programme is going to be implemented during 1988-89.

(b) The Special Foodgrains Production Programme will be implemented in 18 districts in Bihar with rice, wheat, maize and gram as focus crops.

(c) The Special Foodgrains Production Programme is a mutually agreed programme.

(d) Assistance proposed to be given to Bihar State for different components under the scheme is as under :

(Rs. lakhs)	
Components	Proposed assistance
1. Rice	362.21
2. Wheat	145.00
3. Maize	106.90
4. Fertilizer	21.60
5. NODC Assistance	300.00
Total :	935.71

Crop Insurance Scheme

*912. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether farmers who took loans from the financial institutions are benefited under the Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the broad features of the benefits given to such farmers;

(c) whether Government are considering to revise Crop Insurance Scheme to cover all farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) In areas notified for coverage under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme by the concerned State Governments all farmers availing of crop loans from Cooperatives, Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks for raising Wheat, Paddy, coarse grain, Pulses and Oilseeds are eligible for benefits under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme.

(b) The insured farmers are paid compensation in the event of crop failure as a result of drought, flood etc., thereby,

restoring their credit eligibility after a crop failure, for the next crop season. The premium charged is also nominal.

(c) and (d). Modifications to be made in the scheme are under consideration of Government.

Dryland Farming

*913. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether scientists at the Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture have identified measures for the utilisation of rainfed areas-in the country;

(b) if so, the States where these measures will be applied and the land expected to be brought under full cultivation;

(c) the agricultural production including oilseeds expected in Andhra Pradesh as a result of application of the new measures; and

(d) whether any changes have been made by the Centre in the dryland farming programme ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) The All-India Coordinated Research Project on Dryland Agriculture which has now been upgraded as the Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture has developed measures for improved rainfed farming in the country. They include improved agronomic practices in crop production for adoption in areas already treated for soil and water conservation.

(b) During 7th Plan a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Agriculture (NWDPR) was launched from 1986-87. The improved dryland farming technology is being demonstrated in 16 States covering 99 districts. These States are: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The Seventh Plan target of coverage is 9.28 lakh hectares.

(c) It is expected that with the adoption of improved rainfed farming technology production of dryland crops including oilseeds in Andhra Pradesh is likely to increase significantly.

(d) During the 7th Plan no change in the on-going scheme of NWDPR is contemplated.

Consumption of Fertiliser in Maharashtra

*914. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL ; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the declining intake of fertiliser is one of the factors that is coming in the way of much better showing in the field of agricultural production in the country;

(b) the rate of consumption of fertilisers in Maharashtra per hectare during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the extent to which it has affected the agricultural growth;

(d) whether the Centre provides assistance and educates farmers in collaboration with the State Government for the proper use of fertilisers; and

(e) if so, how this Central scheme has been functioning in Maharashtra and the results achieved so far ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) to (e). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. The consumption of fertilizers is successively increasing. So much so much so that inspite of severe drought during 1987-88 the consumption is estimated to be 90.72 lakh tonnes of the nutrients while it was 87.38 lakh tonnes during the year 1986-87.

(b) The estimated per hectare consumption of fertiliser in Maharashtra was 32.7 kg. during 1985-86, 33.1 kg. in 1986-87 and 35.7 kg. during 1987-88.

(c) Question does not arise.