

MR. SPEAKER : Is it ?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, will the hon. Minister confirm that after efforts of decades we are today growing about a thousand tonnes of mushroom in this country whereas in a various foreign countries, particularly China, which has taken up scientific mushroom growth about 4 or 5 years ago, they are already growing about hundred thousand tonnes of mushroom of which more than sixty per cent is exported. There is, therefore, a very large export market for mushroom. In India where we have got temperate climate like the sub-Himalayan region we have got an enormous territory where we can grow much more than a hundred thousand tonnes of mushroom provided the laboratories do not confine their activities within their own campuses but go out to teach the people how to grow mushroom and also the Government arranges for marketing of the same. Will the Government take the necessary steps to do so ?

S. BUTA SINGH : Yes Sir ; I have given the answer to the main question. The hon. Member wanted to know the total production. The total production is 1,120 tonnes out of which about 50 tonnes are exported. It is true, as compared to other countries like China, we are very behind. So far as the distribution of research at various centres is concerned, as I told you, 5 States have already been included and we will include as many of the States as possible. The States are not showing enough interest because it is a highly skilled crop and individual farmers will have to be induced : It requires a heavy dose of investment.

So far as research in concerned, we are as good as any other country including China.

Farmers Agro-Service Centres

*371. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALICK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the main objectives of the centrally sponsored scheme for establishment of farmers agro-service centres for custom hiring and popularisation of improved animal drawn implements launched in 1983-84 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that in most of the States, the scheme was either started late or has not been implemented at all ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme was launched in December, 1983 with the objective of making available the facility of improved animal drawn agricultural implements and hand tools to the small and marginal farmers, particularly in dry land areas. The three integrated components of the scheme are :

- (i) Establishment of farmers' agro-service centres for custom hiring ;
- (ii) Demonstrations ; and
- (iii) Distribution of improved agricultural implements and hand tools at subsidised rates.

(b) & (c). All the three components of the scheme referred to in (a) above were to be implemented in 9 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. In the remaining 13 States, only the third component i.e. distribution of improved agricultural implements and hand tools at subsidised rates was to be implemented.

18 States and one Union Territory have begun implementing the project, as detailed in the attached statement. The

project was sanctioned by the Government of India only in January, 1984, and the States have taken some time to examine the feasibility of their participation, since

they are required to bear 50% of the cost. It is clear that a vast majority of the States have begun participating in the project.

Annexure

Progress in the Implementation of the Scheme

- A. Progress in the States where all the three components were sanctioned by the Ministry.

States	Farmers Agro Service Centres established	Demonstrations conducted	Implements and tools distributed
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1. Maharashtra	39	—	5362
2. Orissa	7	702	69587
3. Tamil Nadu	72	2868	15786
4. Uttar Pradesh	4	476	12702
5. Assam	14	214	—
6. Madhya Pradesh	—	260	3324

- B. Progress in the States where only one component was sanctioned by the Ministry.

States/UTs.	Number of implements and hand tools distributed
1. Gujarat	71672
2. Haryana	162
3. Himachal Pradesh	162
4. Rajasthan	1602
5. Kerala	84

- C. The following States have indicated that they have commenced implementation of the scheme during the current year 1985-86 and their progress reports are awaited :

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Bihar
3. Karnataka
4. Manipur
5. Punjab
6. Jammu & Kashmir
7. West Bengal

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : I have gone through the statement of the hon. Minister that the main objective of the scheme is to provide improved implements to the small and marginal farmers in the dryland areas. Sir it is known that there are some blocks which have been identified for dryland cultivation. There has not been much progress in this direction. Also no facilities have been given in respect of making available of improved implements to the small and marginal farmers. May I know from the hon. Minister the total number of such blocks identified under the scheme and the total number of agro service centres which have been set up ? What I want to know is, total number of blocks and total number of agro service centres.

S. BUTA SINGH : In the Sixth Five-year Plan, the scheme was extended to many areas. The total physical outlay envisaged was about 1200 agro service centres in 600 blocks. Target of demonstrations of tools and implements was 48,000. popularisation of 2.51 laks improved implements and 4.6 lakh hand tools were to be sold on subsidised prices. If the hon. Member wants to know the State-wise break-up, I will read out.

MR. SPEAKER : You lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : My second supplementary would be this. The State Agro-industry Corporations have been set up for developing and manufacturing suitable equipments, promotion of agro-based industries, distribution of agricultural inputs and providing custom, hiring services, through the Farmers' Agro Service Centres to the farmers. But it is reported that majority of the States Agro-Industry Corporations have been keeping themselves engaged in the work of the distribution of inputs rather than performing the basic objectives of the scheme.

Some of the State Corporations are not manufacturing the implements according to the ISI standard. May I

know from the hon. Minister, the reaction of the Government on that point?

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, we had envisaged that the State Agro-Industries Corporations would take up, manufacturing of improved agricultural implements and hand tools in a big way. But we are rather unhappy with the implementation of these targets because most of the State Agro-Industries Corporations have not started manufacturing these implements. They purchase them from the open market and sell them to the farmers. They get their margin out of those things and the subsidy is misused.

Therefore, we are now, in the Seventh Five Year Plan, trying to see that the Agro-Industries Corporations set up their own units and we will be having a close monitoring system of the manufacturing of these implements which have already been found very useful through various demonstrations. In the Eastern sector, specially, the bullock-drawn implement are becoming more and more popular and we have to give a big thrust in introducing latest agricultural implements and tools in bringing modern cultivation in the backward areas.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Sir, even after 38 years of independence, the most neglected sector is dry land farming. No research has been made in regard to the implements specially suitable for the dry land cultivation. Only tractors, power tillers and all the equipment which are not useful to the dry land farming and which are costly and uneconomical to the dry land farmers are manufactured. Actually, the implements which are handy to the farmers, specially the small farmers have not been so far manufactured and the Government has not taken any step towards this direction.

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is going to consider issuing of licences to those thousands of agricultural graduates and agro-engineering graduates who are unemployed

to take up manufacture of implements suitable to the small and marginal farmers and other agro-based service centres in rural areas. Instead of providing jobs, it is better to encourage the unemployed agricultural graduates, veterinary graduates and agro-engineering graduates in rural areas to go into the manufacture of implements useful to the small and marginal farmers. I also want to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps he is proposing to take during this year and during the Seventh Five Year Plan. While I was discussing with the hon. Prime Minister, he told me, "He is taking enough measures during the Seventh Plan for the benefit of the farmers". I want to know what are the measures he is going to take for the implementation of these schemes.

MR. SPEAKER : This is two-way traffic, you see. He is giving information as well as getting information.

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, we have already asked the State Governments to see that 30% of the budget of the Agro industries Corporation is utilised agricultural engineering activities including for the manufacturing of the latest agricultural implements, specially for the small and marginal farmers.

We have constituted a National Level Committee to review the agricultural implements and this Committee will not only review but also release some latest improved implements and tools which have been developed for the relief and use of the small and marginal farmers in the dry land areas.

We have also requested the Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering and other ICAR Institutes and Agricultural Universities to develop prototypes of appropriate types of implements and tools not only mechanical but also hand-operated for the people who have not been able to buy the tractors and other big machines.

A national-level Exhibition exclusively

for the farm implements, tools and machines was organised at Hissar in which various Institutes, Agencies and the farmers themselves have participated. Such like Exhibitions will now be encouraged in almost all the States.

Grant of Financial Assistance to co-operative spinning mills in Maharashtra

***372. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government have asked the Central Government to grant financial assistance to 20 cooperative spinning mills in the State ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the National Cooperative Development Corporation, New Delhi has agreed to sanction financial assistance to only six mills and one mill is assisted by World Bank through the National Cooperative Development Corporation ;

(c) if so, whether Central Government propose to grant financial assistance to the remaining 13 mills ; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) The Government of Maharashtra had requested the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for financial assistance to 22 new cooperative spinning mills during the 6th Plan.

(b) The programme in the 6th Plan envisaged setting-up of 6 new cooperative spinning mills in Maharashtra. As against this, NCDC has provided financial assistance for 7 new mills including 1 mill assisted under the World Bank Programme.

(c) and (d). Some of the cooperative spinning mills already assisted by NCDC