

details with me at present about the places where these have been sanctioned. 136665 dwelling units have been built and 174687 plots have been developed and allotted to the economically weaker sections, out of whom 40 per cent are weaker sections. As regards the question which State has done more for the poor, it can be known only after obtaining information from the States about the work done by them in their respective areas. But it is a lengthy process. About HUDCO, I have told you already that it had built so many units and developed so many plots in a certain period.

[*English*].

Steps to Increase Paddy Yield Per Hectare

*270. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether yield per hectare of paddy in our country was 2195 kg. in 1983 as compared to world average of 3108 kg; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to improve the yield per hectare of paddy in our country ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) The per hectare yield of paddy in India during 1983 was 2185 kg. as compared to world average yield of 3114 kg. per hectare.

(b) The steps being taken to improve the yield per hectare of paddy in the country include : increased coverage of area under high-yielding varieties, adoption of improved package of practices, diversification of varieties, efficient use of water, increased use of fertilisers, need based plant protection measures and development of technology suitable for problematic areas. Besides,

a Central Sector Scheme of Pilot Projects in 51 selected blocks of six Eastern States of Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal has been taken up during 1984-85 as a forerunner of the Special Rice Production Programme to increase the production and productivity of rice in these States during the 7th Five Year Plan.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : The answer given by the Hon Minister is nothing but an attempt to generalise my question. I want to know categorically what are the steps taken by the Ministry of Agriculture in improving the productivity per hectare of rice. The country's yield per hectare of paddy is almost a thousand k.g. less than the world average, which is not a small difference. So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Ministry is aware of the problem at least. Whether they have identified this programme to increase the productivity of rice per hectare. I do not want these answers telling these are high-yielding projects and seeds. All these things are very common now.

Secondly, the Hon. Minister has identified some of the States to launch a special drive as a fore-runner of the special rice production programme. I would like to know whether this is to produce special varieties of rice or to increase its productivity.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : In my main reply to the question I have mentioned that the Government has already launched in the selected blocks special drive for increasing the productivity and quality of paddy in our country. But, I may also mention that in various States there is great disparity in the productivity level of paddy and the productivity level is low in the five or six States—States of Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh which are some of the major paddy—growing States. In the non-traditional paddy growing States like

Punjab and Haryana, the productivity has risen. The problem in these States, which I mentioned, is not the same problem as in the intensively—paddy growing States. Here the problem is basically of water management. We have to evolve a strategy in which we can put to best use the water resources available in these areas and also introduce certain varieties in the high-yielding seeds, which can stand the density of water available in the Eastern Sector. The ICAR has drawn up a very good scheme for increasing productivity of paddy in these selected States through the pilot projects, which have been launched in selected number of fifteen blocks.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : The Minister is very conveniently avoiding my question. I am asking a very particular question whether the Plan envisages a special rice production programme i.e. special variety or to increase its productivity. This is the question which he has not answered. I need your protection.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : There is no question of avoiding the question. The high-yielding varieties programme of paddy is supported with the implementation of Central sector scheme. This is what I am trying to emphasise.

We have also a scheme for the propagation of new technology which includes new community nursery programme of paddy, minikit demonstrations and training of extension personnel. These are the community nursery schemes. I am going to quantify also.

MR. SPEAKER : For this question, there is a simple answer. The answer is, there cannot be more production without a better quality and without better techniques.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : That is what I am emphasising.

MR. SPEAKER : Both are necessary for productivity.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : That is what I am trying to highlight. What the Government of India through the ICAR and Extension Services is trying to attempt is this. A subsidy of Rs. 1500 per hectare of nursery is given to all the participating farmers to partly meet the cost of inputs. The seedlings raised are shared with other farmers at a nominal cost. The main object of the programme is to advance the sowing time so as to increase the productivity and vacate the fields in time for taking up of rabi crops. The area under community nurseries has been extended from 13,951 hectares in 1979-80 to 23,250 hectares in 1984-85.

Under the minikit programme, small quantities of seeds of newly released and pre-released varieties are supplied free of cost for demonstration at the farmers' fields so as to facilitate varietal diversification after ascertaining the reaction of the farmers to the newly identified varieties. The number of paddy minikits distributed during 1984-85 is 12.5 lakhs as against 0.5 lakhs distributed in 1980-81. These are the massive attempts that the Government of India, through the ICAR, is trying to attempt to increase the productivity and the quality of paddy in the areas which are traditionally meant for growing paddy in the Eastern sector of our country.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : I hope that the Minister will agree with me that the purchase price fixed by the Agricultural Price Commission (APC) is also one of the disincentives for the farmers resulting in low productivity in the country. The scientific approach towards the fixation of this price is not at all so far attempted in our country.

MR. SPEAKER : We have already discussed it on a full-fledged basis

under Rule 193. Don't take up that now. There was a full-fledged discussion on the remunerative price. We did it completely. You put another question, if you like.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : I want to know from the Hon. Minister, what is the amount allotted under the pilot project for intensive rice cultivation to each block and for how many years, the fund has been earmarked for this scheme ?

Has the money allotted for the Panchayat Samitis been spent in all the States and is the Government going to include some other Panchayat Samitis also under this scheme ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Under the Central sector scheme, all pilot projects under 51 selected Blocks of the 6 Eastern States mentioned earlier have been taken up during 1984-85 to remove the short-term constraints like seed, fertilizers, credit, agricultural implements, land development etc. A sum of Rs. 5 crores was sanctioned as grant to these States for various developmental measures.

If you want the item-wise break-up...

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Mr. Speaker, I have one short supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : Rangaji, there is a much more important Question which is coming up.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : What about aids for the traditional rice producing States like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, when I said, "these six States", it does not mean that the other States are excluded. What I was trying to highlight is, a special drive has been launched. Andhra,

Punjab, Haryana and Maharashtra will continue to receive those aids which they have been receiving so far.

Oilseeds Yield Per Hectare in India

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*271. **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :**
SHRI AMARSINGH
RATHAWA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of scientists working on oilseeds and annual funds utilized for the purpose during the Sixth Plan period ;

(b) whether average per hectare yield of oilseeds in India is lower as compared to other countries of the world ;

(c) whether large scale imports of vegetable oils at high prices are imperative ; and

(d) the quantity of vegetable oil and oilseeds produced in the country from 1982 to 1984 ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) 508 scientists are working on different oilseeds projects and the expenditure incurred on these projects during the Sixth Plan is as under :—

Year	Amount
	(Rs. in Lakhs)
1980-81	109.88
1981-82	130.04
1982-83	143.89
1983-84	141.07
1984-85	105.56
(upto February, 1985)	