

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

+

*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)	

(b) As per Food and Agriculture Organisation Production Year Book 1983, the average per hectare yield of different oilseeds produced in India is lower than the world average production per hectare, although in respect of selected oilseeds it compares favourably with some countries.

(c) There is a gap between the total demand of edible oils and the indigenous production and this gap is bridged by imported edible oils as a short term measure.

(d) The quantity of cultivated oilseeds and its oil equivalent is as under :—

Year	Oilseeds	Oil equivalent
		(lakh tonnes)
1982-83	100.0	25.2
1983-84	128.1	32.0
1984-85	130.0	33.0

SHRI INDRAJIL GUPTA : The Hon. Minister has stated that the gap exists between demand and production output is necessitating imports of oilseeds and oil. He said that this was a temporary measure. I would like to know from him what is the total value of imports of vegetable oil during the year which has just concluded, i.e. 1984-85; whether it is a fact or not that the total amount which is perhaps Rs. 1500 crores in value is the second most expensive item of import oil after petroleum imports and, if that is so, whether he can tell us that in spite of spending so much of money in foreign exchange—if we total up all those six years' figures which he gave, it will come to nearly Rs 800 crores or Rs. 1000 crores and over 500 scientists are working full time on the job—why it is that neither the productivity per acre nor even the total output is increasing substantially.

I have figures here as per the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture for 1982-83. In the last 30 years since the Republic was born,

from 1950-51 to 1980-81 while the area under oilseeds went up marginally from 166.40 lakh hectares to 176.02 lakh hectares, the production went down from 96.30 lakh tonnes to 93.72 lakh tonnes in 1980-81. That means, the yield per hectare went down from 579 in 1950-51 to 532 in 1980-81. In 30 years, this is where we have reached.

So, I would like to know from him whether it is not a fact that this temporary measure of importing oilseeds and oil and spending so much of foreign exchange on these imports will continue so long as we are unable to increase production and productivity per hectare. This is a tremendous drain on our foreign exchange resources. He must give an adequate explanation for the sorry state of affairs.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : The Hon. Member should be aware of the extreme drought condition which the country is facing...

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Every year ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : There has been a persistent drought for the last 3 to 4 years. If the Hon. Member looks at the representations received from various State Governments on the drought conditions in the States, he will be fully convinced—when we go down in the fields also—that drought is persisting during the last more than 3 to 4 years. In 1982-83, it was the worst drought in the country. Even then, with that kind of a drought, the country has been able to sustain itself—the impact of drought could have finished the agricultural production in the country—and that speaks well in respect of volumes of research and hard work that is being done by our Indian scientists in this field. Of course, the farmers are the people who have implemented the research programmes.

The Hon. Member was quoting the figures of production. For his benefit, I would like to mention that in the

most drought affected year, the production was 87.4 lakh tonnes in the country which has now touched 130 lakh tonnes. This is no mean achievement. It is an achievement we should be proud of. But I agree with the Hon. Member that the demand and supply gap has to be bridged and this gap would be bridged temporarily by importing the edible oil to save our country from the deficiency of edible oil.

As regards imports, the Hon. Member was pleased to mention the amount involved. May I bring to his notice that in 1983-84, from Rs. 1,319 crores which was incurred on import of edible oil, it has been Rs. 410 crores during 1984-85 upto January. This again speaks that we are trying to increase the indigenous production of oil seeds. Much is desired to be done in this regard because most of the oil seed crop are in dry land farming. Wherever there is irrigation, the oil seeds disappear. The better crops take their place. Wherever there is irrigation, the farmers switch over to either paddy or wheat. Therefore, oil seeds and pulses suffer from this handicap and we have to popularise.....

MR. SPEAKER : You are all right. We have to consider that one.

(Interruption)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I want to tell you one thing more. You are also sitting here and the Minister of Civil Supplies is also here. One or two days before, when I came —

[English]

—A good crop of oilseeds is coming into the market. But it benefited this crop because there were no diseases to the oil seeds plants.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: There is price fall for the farmers.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH : One Hon. Member says it is falling and the other says it is rising.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I am producing the crop. Oil is being produced by...

[Translation]

MK. SPEAKER : Rao Shaib, the crop is coming. Make arrangements for its procurement. The support price may also kept in view.

[English]

That is what people were telling me. I just want to bring it to the notice of Rao Birendra Singh. You make preparations before.....

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : We are trying to see that the prices do not fall much.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Vegetable oil manufacturers lobby is all powerful. They prefer imports to be made by the Government rather than increasing the productivity—

[Translation]

It is a very important question. We should be allowed to have a Half-hour Discussion on it

MR. SPEAKER : All right, we shall do it.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : New effort has been made now. The Prime Minister is going there.