

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Monday, April 27, 1987/Vaisakha 7,
1909 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Faculty of Agricultural Engineering
in Agricultural Universities

*801. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to start Faculty of Agricultural Engineering in some of the Agricultural Universities in the country during the current Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of Agricultural universities/colleges having this facility in the country at present ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G. S. DHILLON) : (a) No, Sir. It is within the purview of the State Agricultural Universities/State Governments to establish different colleges/faculties in the State Agricultural Universities.

(b) Does not arise.

(c. Out of 25 State Agricultural Universities, agricultural engineering colleges are

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functioning in eleven of them. In addition, degree programmes in agricultural engineering are also offered in Sukhadia University (Agriculture Wing), Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagour, Agricultural Institute, Naini (Allahabad) and Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi (PG Programme only). There are proposals to establish colleges of agricultural engineering during current plan in two more State Agricultural Universities viz. Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar and Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our country is primarily agricultural and in the last 20 years, our food production has increased three times. It has increased from 5 crore tonnes to 15 crore tonnes. There can be no two opinions about the fact that science and technology is going to dominate our future. If we want to take our achievements in the field of agricultural science and technology to our farmers in the rural areas, we will have to establish a large number of Agricultural Engineering Colleges and Krishi Vigyan Kendras rapidly in the various parts of the country. At present, as the Hon. Minister has stated, out of 25 State Agricultural Universities, Agriculture Engineering colleges are functioning in eleven of them. May I know whether the Government has formulated any policy to start Agricultural Engineering faculties in all these Agricultural Universities ?

My second question is connected with the first. The Hon. Minister has stated that Agricultural Universities come within the purview of the State Governments. May know the Government's policy in regard to granting permission to State Governments for the opening of Agricultural Engineering Colleges ?

DR. G. S. DHILLON : So far as functioning of eleven Agricultural Engineering Colleges in the 25 Agricultural Universities is concerned, there were no restrictions from our side. Even there is no restriction on the opening of institutes as well. Whenever any University sends us any such proposal, we send a technical team there to examine its feasibility and its technical aspect. If ever such a proposal comes from any State Agricultural University, then its feasibility and technical aspect will be examined and there will be no other obstruction from the Centre.

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the field of Agricultural Science new subjects are coming up every day. In our country also, significant work has been done in the fields of Genetic Engineering, soil and water technology. Has any concrete step been taken through I.C.A.R. and C.I.A.E. to introduce these subjects in the Agricultural Engineering Colleges and Krishi Vigyan Kendras? Have such subjects or specialised courses already been introduced in the Agricultural Engineering Colleges?

DR. G. S. DHILLON : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think, the subjects referred to by the Member should also be introduced as many such things come up before us while implementing the N.R.E.P. and other poverty alleviation programmes. We have also introduced drinking water technology. I will be rather grateful if these subjects are introduced.

[English]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Sir, as far as the agricultural universities are concerned, they are all autonomous bodies because for the B.E., Engineering students, and other B. Sc (Agriculture) students, the syllabus is being fixed by the universities themselves. The syllabus that is being taught to the B.E. students is the same as that of B. Sc. students in the agricultural universities because all these syllabi are combined together and they are being taught in the agricultural universities. But, here while the graduates of B.E. Engineering, be it Civil or Electrical, are eligible to apply for different jobs, the B.Sc. (Agriculture) stu-

dents are eligible to apply only for the jobs connected with the agricultural research or related agricultural activities. Sir, my question is whether the Government would come forward to make eligible all those students, those who are coming out from the agricultural universities, in par with the B.E. students, who are eligible to apply for other jobs because actually there is no difference between the syllabi of the two?

DR. G. S. DHILLON : Sir, the Hon. Member has put a question about the syllabi which is quite wide ranging. B. Sc. in agriculture engineering is slightly different with an edge in favour of agriculture.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Sir, more subjects are being taught in Agriculture, like Water Management Works, etc.

DR. G. S. DHILLON : We have our own syllabus and that syllabus is set up by the ICAR in consultation with many of the experts so as to suit our agricultural needs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Rajasthan Government has sought permission from the Central Government, especially from the Central Department of Agriculture, for setting up an Agricultural University in Bikaner. May I know the action taken in this regard so far?

DR. G. S. DHILLON : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question does not arise out of main question but still I would inform him that we have a programme for opening an Agricultural University in Rajasthan and we will open it wherever they want.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the knowledge which we have gained in the field of Agricultural Engineering should reach the farmers through our Krishi Vigyan Kendras. At present, there are only a few Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the country and in the backward area, their number is much less. May I know from the Hon. Minister the number of such Centres being opened this year and the efforts being made by these Centres to make the latest information in the field of Agricultural Engineering available to the farmers?

DR. G. S. DHILLON : You have put a different question. The question relates to the Agricultural Engineering Colleges in the Agricultural Universities and you are asking about the Krishi Vigyan Kendras. If a notice for a separate question is given, I will give full information. It is, however, a wide ranging question and the Krishi Vigyan Kendras will be having different experiences. We are prepared to open more such centres but we are short of funds. We have approached the Finance Ministry as well as the Planning Commission and also outside agencies in this regard. My reply is exactly as you want. When we have funds, we will set up more such centres.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : When will you get them ?

[*English*]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : I would like to know whether the Government has any proposal to set up agricultural polytechnic institutions like other polytechnic colleges to enable the farmers to utilise their services at the Panchayat Samiti level. At present, only agricultural graduates are available. There are no diploma holders in agricultural subjects and there are no personnel available at the Panchayat Samiti and taluka levels to help the farmers. Are Government considering to set up some polytechnic colleges in subjects such as agriculture ?

DR. G. S. DHILLON : The Hon. Member is talking about setting up of polytechnics at district and taluka levels. We are more concerned to cover 25 universities first. As soon as they are covered, we would look to the other side.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Are these Centres set up wherever the State Government want or you also express your own opinion ?

DR. G. S. DHILLON : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are aware that we want the State Governments to take initiative and come to us and say that they want to set up these centres. We are always prepared for the same.

SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the beginning an Agricultural University called Sukhadia University was set up in Udaipur. In course of time other faculties were added to it and it has now become a multi-purpose university. Since then, we have no independent university. I have been constantly demanding since 1980, when I joined the Parliament, that there is a great need for opening an Agricultural University in Rajasthan. I have also been demanding that the old agricultural college situated at Jowner, which is adjacent to the areas of Sikar and Jhunjhunu, should be granted the status of a University. May I know from the Hon. Minister the grounds on which an Agricultural University has been proposed to be set up in Bikaner and whether the grounds in case of Jowner are less important ?

MR. SPEAKER : Bikaner has the entire infrastructure and that is why this proposal has been made. It will be good if it is set up there.

DR. G. S. DHILLON : You have already given the hint, what can I say ?

[*English*]

Conservation of marine resources

*803. **SHRI SOMNATH RATH :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government are monitoring the steps taken by State Governments to conserve the marine resources available within the Exclusive Economic Zone, which are depleting fast;

(b) if so, the results achieved during the last three years; and

(c) the advice given by Union Government to the States pursuant to the study made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.