

पटवारी मुखिया के यहां बैठ कर काम करता है और उसकी रिपोर्ट तैयार करता है। बहुत सारी राज्य सरकारें पैसा लेने के लिए गलत रिपोर्ट केन्द्रीय सरकार को भेजती हैं। उससे सारे के सारे थ्रांकाड़े गलत बनते हैं और देश की इकानामी पर उसका फर्क पड़ता है। इस लिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस चीज को चैक करने के लिए आपके यहां कोई समिति है ?

राव विरेन्द्र सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस बारे में हमने सोचा है कि किस तरीके से इसको चैक करें। स्टेट ने अगर अन्दाजा कम किया है या घटाया है, उसकी सही हालत मालूम करें। स्टेट्स को इस के मुताल्लिक लिखा है और हमने दूसरी स्टैटिस्टिकल आर्गैनीजेशन से भी मदद मांगी है।

### Consumption of Fertilizers

\*295. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether consumption of fertilizers in the country has been much below the targets;

(b) if so, its effect on food production; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to popularise the intake of fertilizer to step up food production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) No Sir. The achievement in fertilizer consumption during 1979-80 and 1980-81 and also that expected in 1981-82 is above 90 per cent of the target.

(b) The foodgrain production depends on combination of a number of factors, viz., weather, gross cropped area, irrigated area High Yield-

ing Varieties Area etc. in addition to use of inputs such as fertilizer, seeds, pesticides. It is difficult to isolate and precisely quantify the impact of one factor viz., fertilizer consumption on foodgrain production.

(c) The Government has taken the following steps to step up fertilizer consumption:

(i) Ensuring adequate and timely availability of fertilizers through domestic production and import.

(ii) Ensuring favourable cost-benefit ratio by increasing the support prices of crops to reflect the increase in fertilizer prices.

(iii) Delivery of fertilizers upto Block Headquarters on Government account all over the country.

(iv) Increase in the distribution margin by about 22 per cent w.e.f. 15-8-1981 on *ad hoc* basis pending in depth study.

(v) Launching intensive fertilizer promotion campaign in selected districts where consumption potential exists and a present the consumption is low.

(vi) Increasing the short-term loan to the States for purchase and distribution of inputs, including fertilisers, from Rs. 136 crores in 1979-80 to Rs. 200 crores in 1980-81 and also 1981-82.

(vii) Subsidy on Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers to the small and marginal farmers at a rate of 25 per cent and 33-1/3 per cent under Integrated Rural Development Programme.

SHRI A. K. ROY: Such a long answer, when you come to the end of it, you forget it. The pattern of fertilizer consumption can provide a lot of food for thought in addition to food for stomach.

India is one of the poorest consumers of fertiliser, only 17 kg. per

hectare, if I remember correctly while even in China it is more than five times. The hon. Minister is taking delight over the fact that fertiliser consumption in the country is satisfactory. During the last 25 years, the fertiliser consumption has increased 43 times. Recently, there has been deceleration and it has come down for 25 per cent to 18 per cent and, this year, I think, it will not be more than 5 per cent.

In view of this, I would like to ask my first supplementary divided into three parts. Firstly, what is the target of fertiliser consumption in the years 1979-80, 1980-81 and 1981-82 and what is the actual quantity of fertilizer consumed...

MR. SPEAKER: Are you matching him for the long answer?

SHRI A. K. ROY: The supplementary must be in the same proportion to the answer.

Secondly—that is most important and it will be interesting to you also—what is the percentage increase in the price of fertiliser and its relation with the percentage increase in the cost of production of foodgrains, specially wheat, because now-a-days there is a demand that more price should be given and, thirdly, as we are giving some concessions, subsidy, etc. to the large-scale, medium-scale and small-scale industries, may I know whether some type of grading in giving subsidy would be made available to the farmers depending upon whether he is a large-scale, medium-scale and small-scale farmer.

MR. SPEAKER: Where is the large-scale farmer now?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: To begin with, I would like to inform the hon. Member that the national average of fertiliser consumption in the country today is over 30-32 kg. per hectare, not 17 kg. per hectare.

SHRI A. K. ROY: We are having 150 million hectares under agriculture and you are producing only 5.1 million tonnes of fertiliser.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The hon. Member does not seem to have correct information. The consumption of fertiliser in the country during the last 25-30 years has increased more than 70 times, not 43 times, as he thinks. That is a very big jump for a developing country.

During the year 1978-79, our target was 50 lakh tonnes and achievement was 51.17 lakh tonnes, i.e., 102.3 per cent of the target fixed; in 1979-80, our target was 58 lakh tonnes and the actual consumption was 52.55 lakh tonnes, i.e., 90.6 per cent of the target.

In 1980-81, the target fixed was 61,00,000 tonnes and consumption was 55.16 lakh tonnes which was over 90 per cent of the target.

In 1981-82, the target was 66 lakh tonnes and the estimated consumption was 61.30 lakh tonnes which would be 92 per cent of the target.

The prices, no doubt, have increased in the past. In June, for the first time, there was an increase of about 38 per cent.

Again there was another increase of about 17.5 per cent in fertiliser prices.

We know that fertiliser is one of our most important inputs and reduction in fertiliser consumption is partly due to higher prices also.

We are trying to subsidise the farmer and compensate him fully for the increased cost in production. I have already explained this point so many times to the House.

Every time there is an increase in prices of fertilisers, we want to raise

the minimum support price of agricultural crops accordingly, in order to compensate the farmer.

The input-output ratio of fertiliser is roughly 1.8. That means, if we put in 1 Kg of fertiliser, we get 8 Kg more of foodgrains.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhavrao Scindia.

SHRI A. K. ROY: One question.

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked three questions in one. No, no. You have to ask two Supplementaries, but you have already asked three Supplementaries.

SHRI A. K. ROY: You should not take away our right.

MR. SPEAKER: You should not take away other peoples' right.

SHRI A. K. ROY: Only one question.

There was a two-day National Workshop on Agricultural Development and it has expressed its concern that the consumption of fertiliser in the Western Sector is more when compared to the Eastern Sector in States, like Bengal, Bihar, Assam and Orissa.

I would like to know whether the Hon. Minister would take special care to see that the Eastern areas where the consumption of fertiliser is less would get special incentive and that every effort would be made to bring those areas, at least to the level of Western Sector.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I have already clarified in my main reply, the Fertiliser Promotion Programme for the States where the consumption is low.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Apart from direct subsidies to alleviate the farmers' burden due to fertiliser price increases, we should also concentrate upon increase of yield, by more efficient use of fertilisers.

The Fertiliser Association of India has estimated that the losses in fertiliser application would range round about 50 per cent.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what steps our Government is taking to educate farmers in making more efficient use of fertilisers.

Are there plans for an intensive campaign to pursue this objective. As has been stated in the answer of the Hon. Minister which indicated the launching of Intensive Fertiliser Promotion Campaign in selected districts, where consumption potential exists and where, at the same time, at present the consumption is low?

I would like to suggest to the Hon. Minister that the Intensive Fertiliser Promotion Campaign should be there not only where the consumption is low but even where the consumption is high so that the fertiliser would be put to use in a more efficient manner.

Is there an intensive fertiliser campaign to cover not only just the selected districts but the entire country wherever the consumption of fertiliser takes place?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Educating the farmer is our main focus in the training and visits system that we are now following.

We have Krishi Vidhan Kendras. We hold farmers' training.

We have also Krishi Melas all over the country.

Our field staff, the Gram Sevaks and others, have also got periodical training and Refresher Courses. They also go out and train the farmers.

I agree with the hon. Member that it is most important that the farmers should be educated in the efficient use of fertiliser.

MR. SPEAKER: We also work for that. Why don't you thank me?

SHRI BHERAVADAN K. GADHAVI: It is the experience of all of us who are connected with agriculture that, in order to maintain the proper texture of the soil, not only inorganic manures but organic manures are also required to be added to the soil. Excessive use of inorganic fertilisers sometimes reduce the quality of the soil. So far as organic manure is concerned, our anxiety is that we are burning the cowdung and everything. From the garbage in big cities compost manures and other types of manure are prepared and formerly subsidy was granted to the farmers for transportation of compost manure from big cities, but in the last three or four years that subsidy has been stopped. I want to know whether the Central Government intends asking the State Governments, to give whether they themselves also intend giving, subsidy to the farmers if they want to take the compost manure from big cities to the villages as arganic manure to the soil.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: That is another suggestion for action which we have taken note of.

#### Tiger Project in Jalpaiguri

\*296. SHRI SUBODH SEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for West Bengal Government's second Tiger Project in Jalpaiguri is still awaiting clearance from the Centre; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the inordinate delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHR R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). Project 'Tiger' was launched in 1973-74 with nine tiger reserves. Two more reserves were added in 1978-79. The Proposal to add more areas as tiger reserves during the Sixth Plan was

finally approved by Government in November, 1981. It is only thereafter that the proposals for this purpose received from the States, including the proposal of West Bengal Government for a second tiger reserve in Jalpaiguri district, could be taken up. The Government of West Bengal has since been requested to recast its proposal in accordance with the approved norms for constituting tiger reserves. The question of delay does not arise, therefore.

SHRI SUBODH SEN: The hon. Minister has stated that the proposal to add more areas as tiger reserves during the Sixth Plan was finally approved by the Government in November, 1981, and that it is only after that the proposals for this purpose received from the States could be taken up. Would he be pleased to state whether the States were asked to send their proposals before the final approval of the Sixth Plan and if so, whether any deadline was fixed for sending such proposals and which are the States that have sent their proposals before the deadline?

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: As I have already informed, this proposal was sanctioned only in November, 1981, and it will be taken up in the Sixth Plan in the year 1982-83. But the West Bengal Government is still considering our proposal; we have asked them to give a core area, the minimum requirement for a tiger project, of 300 square kilometres; they gave first only 194 square kms. and then they have given only 234 sq. kms. Still we are asking them to give the required area. The core area is very important. The hon. Members would be interested to know about that. Core area means this; the predatory animals, the wild animals, require about 300 sq. kms. of area where the herbivorous animals can be produced because the herbivorous animals, which feed on vegetables, are a prey for the tigers. Therefore, this is very important; a