

impression to Members that we are backing out. My statement in the House does not indicate that we are backing out at this moment.

DR. KARAN SINGH: A very lukewarm statement.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: The statement of the hon. Minister is not very clear. This commitment, as has been pointed out, dates from the days earlier than 1976 when the Government of India and the Representative of the Indian Delegation made a commitment of this at Montreal Olympics. I really wonder whether there is time now to have any reconsideration. The Asian Games at the earliest has to take place in 1982. In 1981 it was agreed that a full-dress rehearsal would be made. I want to know whether the stadia and the swimming pools, the stadium for the track events and other things have been constructed, at what stage of construction they are and whether they will be completed by 1981.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: To put the facts straight, I should say to the hon. Member that we did not make any commitment at Montreal.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: What is the stage of construction of these things?

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the next question.

Food Production

*4. **PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the food production in the country in the years 1977-78 and 1978-79;

(b) whether this production has shown increase over the food production in the preceding two years; and

(c) if so, what were concrete factors responsible for this increase?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The production of foodgrains at the all-India level has been 126.41 million tonnes during 1977-78 and 131.37 million tonnes in 1978-79.

(b) The production of foodgrains during 1977-78 marked an increase of 5.38 million tonnes over the level in 1975-76 and 15.24 million tonnes over the level in 1976-77. The production of foodgrains during 1978-79 marked an increase of 20.20 million tonnes over the level in 1976-77 and 4.96 million tonnes over the level in 1977-78.

(c) Apart from the favourable weather conditions during 1977-78 and 1978-79, various development programmes which were intensified during the years contributed to realising higher levels of foodgrain production. These, among other things, included extended coverage of high yielding varieties, increased and balanced use of fertilisers, extensive adoption of plant protection measures, intensive training of extension workers and farmers, identification of suitable varieties for different situations through mini-kit programmes and timely planting of high yielding varieties of rice.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Before I come to my supplementary I would like to submit to you about the procedure of framing the question. I never asked a statement to be laid on the Table of the House. It is not such a big statement. He could have read it. If he had read it, the Members would have known the figures.

MR. SPEAKER: Ask the supplementary.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: This is for your consideration. You may please take note of it.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: This is the question as it has been received by us. You will kindly read this; lay a statement.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Anyway that is not the question, which I have submitted. Hon. Minister gets the question from the Secretariat, not from me direct. Sir, though there have been vague talks of failure of the performance in 1977-78, coming to the brass-tacks, I am glad you had to admit that in 1977-78 and 1978-79, the increase in the food production was 15 million tonnes and 20 million tonnes respectively. Various factors have been mentioned. I would like to ask a concrete question. Is it not a fact that because the prices of fertiliser in the very first year of the Janata Government were reduced by Rs. 100 per tonne and as a result of that the increase in the consumption of fertiliser compared to earlier year was 28 per cent and that was one of the important factors that was responsible for the increase in food production to the level of 126.6 million tonnes?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: The increase in food production during these years was due to various factors which have been mentioned in my reply. The most important factor was the favourable weather conditions at the time of raising the crop. There is no doubt that the consumption of fertilisers also increased. That was also due partly to the reduction in price given to the farmers and also to the wisdom of the farmers. If the farmer wants to increase production, you cannot ignore that factor altogether.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Before I ask the next question, I would like to point out that the reply

given by the hon. Minister is not clear. I asked one thing and he talks about the favourable climatic conditions in 1975-76. Identical rainfall level was therein earlier years. In spite of that, actually the production was less. Firstly, let me get a clear reply to my first question. Then I will put my second question.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: I do not know what has been left out of your question.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I will repeat my first question. My first question was that in addition to the factors that you have mentioned, is it not a fact that because the fertiliser prices were reduced by Rs. 100 per tonne, there was 28 per cent increase in the consumption of fertilisers and as a result of that the production in the food grains had increased?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: I have already mentioned that that was also one of the factors. What more the hon. Members wants to know?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: My second question is: Is it not a fact that in 1977-78, the irrigation capacity in the country was increased by 2.7 million hectares which was the record not only for India but for the whole world and that was an additional factor—the most dominant factor—as a result of which we were able to increase the food production?

(b) As a result of this increase in production, is it not a fact that in the very first year and the second year, that is, 1977-78 and 1978-79, we were able to return a considerable portion of the food loan in kind that we had taken from Russia and we were also able to export food-grains to Vietnam? As compared to 1974-75 and 1975-76, when we had imported 18.7 million tonnes of food grains at a cost of Rs. 2503 crores, don't you think that this particular performance was more pronounced as compared to the earlier record?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO:

This is a question of opinion. The hon. Member is welcome to have his own opinions about it. He has not sought any information from me in his question. He is making a statement eulogising the performance of his Government and it needs no answer.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

It has been the convention of this House if the hon. Minister does not give the information the Hon. Speaker protects the hon. Members. My concrete question was.....

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister gives the answer.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

He has not given the answer.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO:

The hon. Member must have more information than I have.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

My categorical question is: Is it not a fact that in the very first year 1977-78, the irrigation capacity was increased by 2.7 million hectares and that was a record.... (interruptions)

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO:

He is not seeking any information; he has all the information with him.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:

Sir, the American lobby has been dominating the planning in the field of agriculture in the ICAR and they wanted to create serious imbalances in the matter of production of foodgrains and the result has been that while in one sphere, namely cereals we had surplus, there was serious shortage in oilseeds and pulses. In 1957-58, the per capita production of pulses was 31.2 kg. and it came down to 16.7 kg. in 1974-75. Will the hon. Minister take note of this and the compound growth rate of selected crops, food and non-food, per cent per annum which was from 1949-50 to 1959-60, production of pulses 3.10, area 3.00 and yield 0.10 per cent'

MR. SPEAKER: I want you to frame your question.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I am framing the question. I wanted to tell this to the hon. Minister before asking the question. In view of the fact that there are serious shortages of pulses and oilseeds and we have been importing edible oil worth about Rs. 850 crores, will the hon. Minister kindly tell us what specific steps they have taken since they have taken over charge to remove this anomaly and to see that proper planning is done in the matter of production of foodgrains, pulses and oilseeds.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: The hon. Member seems to have lot of figures. Some of the questions that he has asked do not arise out of the main question. The question of import of edible oils concerns the Ministry of Commerce and he can put a separate question about that.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: What about shortage of oilseeds and pulses?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: We are taking steps to increase the production.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: But it is coming down every year.... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Please bear in mind that this is a specific question about production. You can put a separate question asking about oilseeds.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Food grains include oilseeds and pulses; if you kindly see the ICAR-report, you will find this. Let the hon. Minister tell us why has the per capital availability of pulses gone down and what steps have been taken in this regard since they have taken over to improve the situation?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: We are attending seriously to the question of shortfall in the production of oilseeds. We are taking certain measures

One of the measures may also be to give better incentive prices to farmers and concessions in the price of inputs. We are also thinking of reducing imports of edible oil from abroad so that the farmer in the home market gets better price for his oilseeds production.

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: Will the hon. Minister inform the House whether the shortage of oilseeds was primarily because of hoarding and blackmarketing in the country?

MR. SPEAKER: This question does not arise.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I would request you, Sir, to see that the Minister, in his oral reply..... (Interruptions) remains consistent with what he says in his written reply. In reply to Mr. Dandavate's remark, he said that the increased food production was primarily due to favourable weather conditions; but in the written reply, he says:

"Apart from the favourable weather conditions during 1977-78 and 1978-79, various development programmes which were intensified during the years contributed to realising higher levels of foodgrains production."

That is an entirely different statement.

MR. SPEAKER: No; it is one of the factors. No, Dr. Swamy.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I would put my question, now. I only want a clarification. In view of the vastly increased foodgrains production, what is the present level of foodgrains stocks in the warehouses in the country? (Interruption)

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: I require separate notice to answer this question.

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering the announcement of the wheat price in advance, because the hon. Minister knows that the price announcement at a particular time goes a long way to help increase production, and encourage the farmers. The earlier Government did announce the price of paddy and sugarcane which really helped the farmers to a very great extent. Will the Minister give serious thought to announce the prices of important foodgrains much earlier, almost at the sowing season, so that the farmers may be encouraged; and secondly, will the Minister also give serious thought to price parity? Prices of industrial goods have been going higher and higher, and the peasants have a very genuine and legitimate grievance that their production does not get the right prices. Will the Minister think of price parity also?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: I agree with the hon. Member that an announcement of prices for agricultural produce in advance of the sowing seasons helps the farmer to undertake a better survey of his lands and be able to decide what are the crops that he can sow for a better profit; but the sowing season is still far off 9 months more for wheat to be sown and we will certainly take a decision much in advance of the proper time.

SHRI VISHWA NATH PRATAP SINGH: I want to know from the hon. Minister whether, during the last 3 years, the Janata Government failed to handle the excess production of potatoes and sugar-cane, resulting in unduly depressed prices for these commodities and a great loss to the farmers.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: It is very true that the sugar-cane area has decreased on account of the previous Government's failure to provide remunerative prices to the farmers for sugarcane during the past years. It is also a fact that tons and tons of potato

rotted in the markets, and the prices crashed to a level—after which the farmers could not think of sowing potatoes any longer. But because of their faith in the present Government, the prices of potato are being maintained in the market; and we will see that those conditions do not recur.

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT: The Minister has admitted the fact that there was increase in production. Is it true that the producers got less, and the consumers paid more and the margin went to hoarders and black-marketeers during that period?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: Yes; that is true. We will see that the middle-men do not get undue benefits, and that the farmer gets fair and remunerative prices for his produce without being fleeced in the market.

Damage to crops due to drought

*5. **SHRI CHITTA BASU:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale damages of crops

due to long spell of drought in different parts of the country in the recent past;

(b) if so, the extent of damages (State-wise);

(c) the assistance provided for by the Centre to the States to meet the situation (State-wise); and

(d) what short-term and long-term programme the Government propose to take for drought prone areas?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. During the last kharif season, 11 States were affected by long spell of drought.

(b and (c).

State	(b)		(c)	
	Population affected (lakhs)	Cropped area affected (lakh ha.)	Total foodgrains allocated under Food for Work & Spl. Food for Works Programme (including balance last year's balance Lakh Mt.	Ceiling of additional expenditure approved by Govt. of India for purposes of Central assistance (Rs. in crores)
Andhra Pradesh	125.00	40.00	2.33	22.05
Bihar	473.00	30.00	3.36	11.82
Haryana	30.00	17.00	0.64	4.50
Himachal Pradesh	27.00	4.90	0.20	3.70
Madhya Pradesh	279.00	88.00	3.01	22.80
Maharashtra	53.14	10.23	1.41	8.54