

14.25 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

FIFTY-EIGHTH REPORT

Sardar A. S. Saigal (Janjgir): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Fifty-eighth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 9th March, 1960."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Fifty-eighth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 9th March, 1960."

The motion was adopted.

14.36 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: EVALUATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME—contd.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now resume further discussion of the Resolution moved by Shri Inder J. Malhotra on the 26th February, 1960 regarding Evaluation of Agricultural Research Programme.

Out of two hours allotted for the discussion of the Resolution, one minute has been taken up.

Shri Inder J. Malhotra may continue his speech.

Shri Inder J. Malhotra (Jammu and Kashmir): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, last time, when I moved the resolution, I was trying to make out the points about the importance of agriculture in our economy. As far as this fact is concerned, it is recognised by all of us in the country. I would not like to say anything more about it.

At the very beginning, I want to submit that my purpose and object in moving this resolution is a very constructive one. My aim is this. For the last so many years, we have been conducting so many agricultural research schemes and programmes. Work is also being done in our various agricultural research institutes. What have we achieved so far? How far have the cultivators been benefited by all these research projects conducted in the various research institutes? If, Sir, by the adoption of this resolution, we have a committee which would represent the two view points, namely, the common one and the technical one, to evaluate all these agricultural research programmes, I feel that the Government and the various agricultural research institutes would benefit a lot.

Keeping in view that we have spent crores of rupees during the last so many years, what has been the result? For what purpose did we spend? We did all that to increase our yield per acre. But if we analyse the wheat yield, Sir, we find that whereas in 1949-50, the wheat yield per acre was 584 pounds in 1957-58, it was 578 pounds per acre. That means in a period of ten years actually the per acre yield of wheat has come down. Certainly, this raises a sort of anxiety and worry in our mind. After all, what is happening with our research programme and what is going on in the various agricultural research institutes in the country? Likewise, if we take the example of rice, in 1949-50, the yield per acre was 688 pounds and in 1957-58, it was 704 pounds per acre. There was only a very insignificant increase of 16 pounds per acre. At a time when we are faced with food deficit....

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): Does not the hon. Member know that 1957-58 was an abnormal year when there was drought all round?

Shri Inder J. Malhotra: That is right, but there is the agricultural research, there are so many other factors which contribute towards increasing the yield. Drought is not the only