

[Shri Hathi]

will all be represented, and that work will go ahead without any delay. I think this should satisfy the hon. Members from West Bengal.

18 hrs.

The other question that was raised was—in fact, a number of questions were raised. It is but natural that the House feels that we should make progress and greater progress so far as irrigation and power are concerned. It cannot be denied. There cannot be two opinions about the fact that power is the key to the development and progress of our country. As the hon. Prime Minister had once said here in this House, namely, that progress means panchayat plus power, power is an important element. We have to try our best within, of course, the resources available to generate more and more power so that the country can take large strides in development.

As the House knows, we have made progress but we are not satisfied with the progress that we have made inasmuch as the demand is increasing day by day. It is a good sign that the demand is increasing, but if we look to the statistics, we can say with pride that the country has made progress. It is a different matter that the progress may not be sufficient to meet the demands or to satisfy us. Our ambitions are great. They should be great and we should try to generate more power. But if you look at the figures, you will see that the power generated in 1950-51 was 2.3 million kilowatts; in 1955-56 it went up to 3.42 million kilowatts; in 1960-61 it was 5.7 million kilowatts and in the Third Plan we have tentatively proposed to raise it to 13 million kilowatts, that is, as against 2 million kilowatts generated in 1951 we shall be generating 13.4 million kilowatts. That is nearly six times the power generated during the past 100 years, namely, from 1850 to 1950. In the 15

years from 1950 we shall generate six times that. The House knows that we have got ample water resources at our disposal for about 40 million kilowatts of power to be generated.

Mr. Speaker: He may continue day after tomorrow.

18.02 hrs.

*SEED MULTIPLICATION CORPORATION

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up the Half-an-hour discussion. Shri Inder J. Malhotra.

Shri Inder J. Malhotra (Jammu and Kashmir): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in answer to Unstarred Question No. 1397 answered on the 9th March, 1961 the hon. Minister had stated that the details of the scheme for the establishment of a Seed Multiplication Corporation were being worked out.

In the field of agriculture, I am sure, everyone of us recognises that the programme of multiplication of approved seeds and their distribution is a very important one. It is as important as the distribution of fertilisers and making available to the farmer irrigation water in ample quantity.

A committee no less in importance than the Indo-U.S. Team of the Ford Foundation, named as the "Agricultural Production Team," which submitted its report in April, 1959, emphasised this aspect also. This team pointed out—

"The use of highest yielding adapted crop varieties by the cultivators is one of the most economical means of increasing agricultural production. Seed is a basic crop production cost, and is a cost present whether cultivators use good or poor seed. It is thus vital that only the best seed be used."

Right from the beginning of the First Plan it was emphasised that as far as this aspect of agriculture was concerned, it is a very important one. During the First Plan period it was also suggested that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research might appoint a standing committee which would review from year to year the work of the seed multiplication and distribution programme in the country. I am not aware of whether such a committee was appointed or whether such a committee at all functioned or not. From a pamphlet issued by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, which is entitled *Multiplication and Distribution of Pure Seed of Improved Variety*, I find, however, that a committee was appointed and that committee made certain recommendations for selection of varieties for multiplication, production of nucleus stock and breeders' stock at the breeders' farms and likewise for distribution also.

Now, when Government are considering the question of establishing a seed multiplication corporation in the country, the very basic question comes up namely whether this corporation would have an all-India jurisdiction, or it would be a sort of regional corporation. Another question that arises is what the main functions of this corporation would be, and whether this corporation would be handling the supervision of the multiplication of the seed at the various seed multiplication farms or whether this corporation would just be handling the distribution part of it only.

I am sure that to some extent the hon. Minister would agree with me when I say that as far as our entire seed multiplication and distribution programme in this country is concerned, it is not at all in a satisfactory condition. Mainly, the work is being handled by the State Governments. Whenever we ask the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture as to how it is that during the last two Plan

periods, we have not been in a position to achieve the desired results in the field of seed multiplication and its distribution, the answer that we got most of the time is that it is mainly the responsibility of the State Governments. Now, when the Central Government are considering the question of organising a Central seed multiplication corporation, I would suggest that it is time that the Central Ministry have some kind of understanding with the State Governments also, so that this work can be centrally co-ordinated and technically greater supervision could be given to this.

As far as the distribution part is concerned, I am sure that unless the purview of the corporation is extended on an all-India basis, we shall not be achieving much out of this.

In conclusion, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, on whose recommendation this step is being taken, whether some committee was appointed which made its recommendation, and whether it is as a result of those recommendations that the Central Ministry is now considering the question of organising such a corporation.

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): I am very happy that the hon. Member agrees with us or rather we agree with him that seed multiplication and distribution are a very important item in better agriculture. There can be no two opinions on this, and we had realised its importance from the very First Plan, but I agree with him that on the whole we have not tackled this issue as effectively as we should have done. We live and learn, and this has been so in the case of seed multiplication and distribution also.

When we found that our efforts in getting better seed for the cultivators were not very effective, in the Second Plan we evolved this scheme of seed multiplication farms, and we framed an ambitious programme. There have been some delays because of land

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh]

acquisition laws and other difficulties and the question of payment of compensation etc. etc. But all these difficulties have at last been overcome, and we have very nearly reached the target that we had set for having these farms in the various blocks. These blocks are intended to be self-sufficient.

So far as improved seed is concerned, my hon. friend himself is a scientist, and he, therefore, knows that there are three stages in the multiplication of seed; the first is the nucleus seed; the second is the foundation seed and then there is the seed that is multiplied and provided to the growers. For doing all these things, we have taken adequate steps. For instance, the breeders in the States evolve the nucleus seed; then, it is given to the farms in the blocks for the foundation seed being evolved. After that, it is given to the registered growers for large scale multiplication, so that it might suffice for the needs of the block.

I would like to state that we had a Seeds Committee fairly long ago. I think it was more than 7 or 8 years ago. But we found gradually that the question of hybrid seed had not been tackled, and these hybrid seeds and their utility were known at a late stage. I do not think we appointed any committee to see whether this sort of organisation, a Corporation, was necessary or not. I think it is as a result of the development of our own knowledge and experience that we have come to this conclusion.

When we found that the hybrid seed was getting popular—some of the Punjab farmers had taken it on their own—we realised that this was a very technical matter which could not be left only to individual initiative. Therefore, this organisation is being set up. It has not yet been finalised. But the outline is there. I can supply the details to my hon. friend or to the

House if you so order, because it will take a long time. But this organisation will cover the whole of India. Essentially, it will deal with hybrid seed, especially of maize and then jowar. Under this organisation, there will be a few big farms where this hybrid seed multiplication would be carried on. These farms will have an area of at least about 500 acres.

But the Corporation is not going to stop with this. We also felt the need for certification of seed. We also knew that there is greater necessity for supervision, and legal provisions would be required also. All this is being done on a countrywide scale. We now propose to come to Parliament for an enactment to empower us through this Corporation to take steps, legal in nature. We are also advising the States. The States have in fact, agreed that there should be some legislation in Parliament which will enable them to certify the quality of seed and so on. The total expenditure under the Third Plan for this is Rs. 360 lakhs. For the next financial year, we have provided Rs. 20 lakhs.

This is the broad outline. We are tackling all the issues arising out of multiplication of seeds as well as their distribution through this Corporation. There was a conference of State Agriculture Ministers called and this matter was placed before them. It has been endorsed by them also. It is correct to say that although we did not appoint a committee as such, we have been consulting certain foreign experts and they have agreed that such a Corporation is necessary; this is what has been done in other countries also.

One of our scientists differed from us and asked whether this should not be given to the people to be done. But we felt, all of us almost unanimously, that we must take up this work on a big enough scale, because otherwise cross polination may spoil the hybrid nature of the seed that we

evolve. Then it will not be effective enough and we will not be able to get the best out of it.

One question which my hon. friend raised in his explanatory statement was whether there was any duplication. I can assure him that we have taken care to see that there is no duplication; nor is there any substitution or supplantation of the existing scheme by this scheme. It is in a way different because it refers specially to hybrid seed multiplication and it will not touch those things which are dealt with by the seed farms at present, except providing for certificate etc.

This, in brief, is the explanation. If my hon. friend or any other hon. Member requires any more information, I am prepared to furnish it.

Shri Bahadur Singh (Ludhiana-Reserved-Sch. Castes): May I know whether the opinions of State Governments were sought before the final decision was taken? If so, were there any differences of opinion between the Government of India and the State Government? If the answer is 'yes', what were those differences and which were the States which differed?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The States were consulted at a Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, where the Directors of Agriculture were also present, and to my knowledge—I am speaking subject to correction—no State differed. There were some non-official scientists who took a different view; but none of the States differed.

Mr. Speaker: Normally, the debate on the Demands of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power will go on on day after tomorrow—tomorrow is good Friday. But the hon. Minister of External Affairs desires that we may start the discussion on the Demands of the Ministry of External Affairs on Saturday and conclude it on Monday. Therefore, I propose that on Saturday non-official business will start at 4 o' clock and conclude by half-past six.

The House will now stand adjourned and meet again at eleven o' clock on Saturday, the 1st April 1961.

18-17 hrs.

[The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, April 1st 1960/Chaitra 11, 1883 (Saka).]