

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Monday, April 21, 1975/Vaisakha 1,  
1897 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

### CONGRATULATION ON SUCCESS- FUL LAUNCHING OF INDIAN SATELLITE

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) :  
Sir, I would request you to congratulate our  
scientists for the successful launching of our  
Satellite 'Aryabhata'.

SHRI PILOO MODI (Godhra) : I  
second it.

MR. SPEAKER : We congratulate all  
our scientists. The Prime Minister will  
make a statement at 5.30 p.m.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### Complaints about Certification of seeds

\*711. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAK-  
ODKAR† :

SHRI D. D. DESAI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE  
AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any complaints have been  
received from the farmers about certifica-  
tion of seeds; and

(b) if so, action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE &  
IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P.  
SHINDE) : (a) & (b) A statement is  
laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) and (b) Some complaints have  
been received about the quality of certi-  
fied seeds sold in Maharashtra in Kharif  
1974. The State Government reported  
that, on a detailed investigation, it has  
been found that the quality of the seeds  
was not in fact substandard and the poor  
germination in many instances was on  
account of adverse agro-climatic conditions.  
However, in one case, in regard to sale of  
Hybrid jowar, containing admixtures, it

had been found that the seeds were not  
according to the standards and a further  
investigation is being undertaken into this  
case.

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKOD-  
KAR : I want to know from the Minister  
whether the complaints are only from one  
compact area or different areas of Maha-  
rashtra and which are those areas? I also  
want to know whether the complaints  
have been received only from Maharash-  
tra or from some other States also? If so,  
which are those States?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :  
We had repeated this question to all the  
State Governments. Unfortunately, we  
did not receive replies from other State  
Governments except Maharashtra. Ma-  
harashtra Government has mentioned that  
there are some complaints against seeds  
which were supplied to the various parts  
of Maharashtra both by Maharashtra  
Government and some other agencies.

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKOD-  
KAR : In that case, i.e. if complaints have  
been received from different areas within  
a State, there must be some discrepancy.  
Anyway, may I know whether there  
is a Central sector scheme for Rs. 100  
crores for the seed industry? Is it with  
the objective not to leave any room for  
discrepancies in distribution of good quality  
seeds to the farmers?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :  
I appreciate the concern of the hon-  
Member because seed is the basis of our  
agricultural development; and unless qual-  
ity seed, with all its sound, technical  
quality is available, agriculture would  
not come up. Therefore, a very big  
programme of development of seed indus-  
try has been taken up. Even World  
Bank loans are being made available to  
certain State Government development  
corporations. We are aware of the weak-  
nesses in the whole programme. We  
are trying to plug the holes.

SHRI D. D. DESAI : The importance  
of good seeds has been mentioned by the  
hon. Minister; and a lot of complaints  
have been received about the National Seeds  
Corporation and its certification. Is there  
already some move on the part of the

Government to separate the functions of the National Seeds Corporation as a producer of foundation and multiplied seeds, from certification facilities, particularly when agricultural universities and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institute also have laboratories and well-equipped facilities for certifying, so that the conflict of interests between the National Seeds Corporation as a producer, seller and certifier does not come in the way of multiplication and supply of seeds by all possible agencies who can produce as much of seeds as possible?

**SHRI ANNASHAHEB P. SHINDE :** Complaints are not only against the National Seeds Corporation, though here and there, it is also true. But there are a number of State agencies also in the field. We have advised the State Governments that production and marketing of seeds should be completely separated from certification agencies. Certification agencies should be independent agencies, so that they do not get mixed up with producers or marketing organizations. But, unfortunately, the State Governments have not accepted our advice in this regard. We are trying to persuade the State Governments to see that independent certifying agencies are set up in the States.

श्री हुकूमबन्द कलबाय : मंत्री जी ने बताया कि कुछ संस्थायें राज्य सरकारों द्वारा चलाई जा रही हैं और उनका सेन्टर से कोई तालमेल नहीं है। इस तालमेल को बैठाने के लिये सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है जिस से अच्छे संबंध हों और केन्द्र की सलाह राज्य सरकारें माने जिस से अच्छा बीज काश्तकारों को दे सकें और जो शिकायतें हैं वह दूर कर सकें? अभी आपने बताया कि एक भावी योजना है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह योजना क्या है और उस पर कितना खर्च होगा?

**SHRI ANNASHAHEB P. SHINDE :** There is a Central law, the Seed Act; and this August House has given its generous support to the Seed Act. In fact, our law is one of the most modern laws in the world, so there is no lack of statute as such. In the implementation, as in other fields, there are some weaknesses.

We are in touch with the State Governments. State Governments have set up the corporations. But many of the cor-

porations are new; and as I had mentioned, the certification agencies are not independent. We are trying now to persuade the State Governments to take it up. As far as the precise amount is concerned, the figure is not with me.

**SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH :** Taking advantage of the farmer's anxiety and also exploiting his ignorance, many spurious private agencies have sprung up. Last year Varaluxmi seed was sold at Rs. 650 per kg, and even that was not pure seed. Considering all these aspects, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he will make arrangements to see that in the States good seeds are supplied to the farmers at reasonable rates and for that purpose seed Corporations are set up in the different States? May I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that the World Bank is coming forward to finance one such big scheme in Andhra Pradesh? If so, when is it going to take shape?

**SHRI ANNASHAHEB P. SHINDE :** As far as the last part of the hon. Member's question is concerned, the Andhra scheme is now almost at the final stage. It has more or less been approved and quite a large amount is going to come by way of World Bank loan to support the Andhra Government's Seed Corporation. It is true that there are spurious seed growers who are taking advantage of the scarcity of seeds. Now that there is an awareness among the Indian farming community of the new seeds, which is a healthy thing, some unscrupulous elements are exploiting this to their advantage. But under the Seed Law even criminal action can be taken against such spurious elements who exploit the farmers by distributing sub-standard seeds.

**SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH :** The Karnataka Government is selling Varaluxmi seeds to the Andhra Government at the rate of Rs. 600 per kg. Is it not a high price? Yet, a State Government is selling to another State Government at this price.

**SHRI ANNASHAHEB P. SHINDE :** The hon. Member should appreciate that we have enough of a good quality seeds now for long staple cotton. It is a healthy trend. We should take a balanced view. In fact, this has helped us so much by bringing up the production. Well, there are some weaknesses and we should try to rectify them.

**SHRI D. N. TIWARY :** So far as the quality of the seeds is concerned, it is not only that of the State farms or of private persons but even that of the Central seed Corporation the seeds supplied, especially of vegetables, are so defective that there is no germination. They are so bad that they die in infancy. What are you going to do to see that there is proper certification of these seeds?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :** For the certification of the seeds germination of a certain percentage is one of the important considerations. Otherwise, the seed is not certified, whether it is a public sector agency or a private agency. If that test is not satisfied, they are liable for prosecution.

**SHRI D. N. TIWARY :** As the hon. Minister knows, I grow some crops.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :** If the hon. Member has any specific instances, he can bring them to my notice.

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD :** We have brought it to the notice of the Seed Corporation that even 40 per cent of the seeds do not germinate. Even the Government agencies do not buy from them; they buy from private sources, because they are so hopeless.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :** I am not saying that no mistakes are committed by them but, by and large, the seed production programme is really making very good progress and impact.

**SHRI PILOO MODY :** I am surprised to hear the Minister say, on the one hand, that the farmers have become aware of good seeds and, on the other, unscrupulous elements are taking advantage of this. I am glad the farmer has become aware of it. But, why has not the Government become aware of the fact that certified seed has become one of the prime inputs in agriculture and, therefore, it should go all out for a scheme to make certified seeds easily available, instead of allowing Varaluxmi to be sold at Rs. 600 a kg. or a new seed that is coming from Madras at Rs. 10,000 a kg? Therefore, the Government should do something to make such seeds easily available and also to see that the certified seeds perform. Do they have any intention of starting a scheme by which the non-performance of their own certified seeds will attract sanctions from the Government?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :** I would like to put the record straight. First of all, the biggest seed production programme is in the case of wheat, and I must say that there has been a very good performance, both on the part of the State Government agencies and the National Seeds Corporation, and even the State Governments have no major complaints with regard to wheat and rice. In the case of bajra, gram etc., there are certain other factors like genetic problems which the scientists have not succeeded in solving. There is the same problem in sorghum, and the vegetables problem is also there, but because of that I do not think we should draw the conclusion that the picture is discouraging at all. In fact, the seed production programme has given a lot of strength and support to our production programme, in agriculture.

**SHRI PILOO MODY :** Farmers in Gujarat have to go to Madras to get their seeds.

**SHRIMATI T. LAKSHMIKANTH-AMMA :** We have ourselves been agriculturists, and I know that spurious seeds have been supplied to agriculturists in Andhra Pradesh. As our friend pointed out, Varalakshmi was mixed with more than 50 per cent of spurious seeds, and the agriculturists out of disgust plucked those plants and threw them at the doors of the agencies which supplied them those spurious seeds. The Minister accepts that spurious seeds are supplied. He also accepts that it is a criminal offence. So, against how many such agencies have you taken action?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :** I am glad that even the hon. lady Member is taking interest in the seed production programme. I would only submit that even Varalakshmi has been really very successful, but if there are failures and they are brought to our notice, we can ask the State Governments to take action.

**SHRIMATI T. LAKSHMIKANTH-AMMA :** At the meeting of the Members of Parliament of Andhra Pradesh, I brought it to the notice of the Chief Minister and the officers who were present there, but so far I do not think any action has been taken against any of these people who have offended. It is a common phenomenon in every State where they have been growing cotton seeds, it is not in my own State alone.

**SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY :** This is a question which requires prompt action.

**MR. SPEAKER :** I was quiet because of this fear of the International Year of Women, but you are also trying to apt.

**SHRIMATI T. LAKSHMIKANTHAMMA :** While all the men are sitting here, it is the women who do the agricultural work, they are suffering. So, women are indispensable even so far as seed production is concerned.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Question No. 712.

**SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT :** Question No. 712.

**THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH) rose—**

**SHRI PILOO MODY :** Do you reply?

**SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH :** I have not ceased to be a Minister.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Nobody doubts it.

**SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH :** I am glad I have the goodwill of the House.

**MR. SPEAKER :** You should be grateful to the Member who tabled the question.

#### Drinking water for Delhi

\*712. **SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT :** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the total drinking water supply available at present for Delhi; and

(b) the assessed requirement for the next five years and the steps taken to augment the same?

**THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH) :** (a) 193 million gallons per day.

(b) For an anticipated population of 60 lakhs by 1980 in Delhi, the total requirement of water would be 360 MGD @ 60 gallons per head per day.

To augment the water resources the following three projects are in progress :

- (1) Lining of Western Jamuna Canal and Delhi Tail Distributary and the

setting up of the Haiderpurhead Works:

- (2) Construction of a Conduit for conveyance of water from Upper Ganga Canal along with its own head works ; and
- (3) Construction of 3 more Ranney wells

These would provide more than 200 MGD of additional water for Delhi.

**SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT :** He has told us that 200 MGD of additional water will be available for Delhi. I would like to know when the Haiderpur head works would be completed. When can we expect the completion of the Ram Ganga or Upper Ganga Canal project? And also about the three Ranney Wells I would like to know by which year, he expects these to be completed. I would like to know from you, with this additional water supply, what steps are being taken to have additional water mains or ancillary mains to provide that water supply, which will be available, to security areas and shortage areas? I would like to know whether these are as have been identified and whether this distribution system is being also improved? What steps are being taken in this direction and when are these projects likely to be completed?

**SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH :** As far as the Haiderpurhead Works are concerned, the project is expected to be completed early in 1978. As regards Conduit from the Upper Ganga Canal, it is expected to be completed by 1979. Regarding the distribution system, I would like to inform the House that action is also being simultaneously initiated to redesign the distribution system. Tenders have been called for from the various indigenous consultants who can take up the work. Now it is expected that the work of redesign would take about a year once the work is allotted. So, we are on the job.

**SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT :** Now, I would like to know from the hon. Minister when the Municipal Corporation has been superseded and the charge of water supply is given to them—what steps Government has taken or proposed to take to streamline the Water Supply Undertaking? Mere bureaucratisation would not be enough. The poor people of Delhi are very much concerned with this Undertaking. What steps the Minister is contemplating to take to see that the genuine grievances of the people, particularly the poorest