

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I do not think any such positive declaration can be made. But, Government desires to arrive at some conclusion on the recommendations of this Commission in the near future.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: The hon. Minister has not concretely given what are the real obstacles—administrative or financial—to take a decision. This matter is still under active consideration after three hundred Members have signed and presented a petition to the Prime Minister and also in the Assemblies of both Bihar and U. P., they have passed Resolutions. Taking into consideration the pros and cons they have recommended for the nationalisation. Also they have passed resolutions at the Assembly level and those resolutions are unanimous. And, recently, in U. P. also 200 Members of the Assembly have signed a paper. In view of these, I want to know from the hon. Minister what concrete difficulties are there specially when there is no constitutional bar and when the financial position is very clear. Also I want to know when a final decision will be taken on this?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE. Sir, as I have mentioned earlier, many factors will have to be taken into consideration like political, administrative, managerial, and the present state of economy and so on before coming to a conclusion. We appreciate the sentiments of the hon. Members. We know that the Members of the House have a strong feeling in regard to nationalisation. Ultimately, this decision will have to be taken on the basis of merits, on the basis of what is demanded by the present set of circumstances and considerations of national priority and in the interest of the national economy as a whole. I do not think these decisions can be hustled in by pressurisation by anybody.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS Shortfall in Production of Foodgrains in Haryana

*81. **SHRI M. M. JOSEPH:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the production of foodgrains in the State of Haryana during the last three years despite the fact that more land had been brought under the high-yielding variety of crops, and

(b) the measures Government propose to take to better the present food scarcity condition in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government have taken the following measures to improve the present foodgrains production situation in the State:—

- (i) Distribution of certified seeds of improved varieties to the farmers.
- (ii) Extension of irrigation facilities by providing loans to the farmers for installation of tubewells and sinking of wells.
- (iii) Reclamation of alkaline and saline land.
- (iv) Advising farmers for judicious use of fertilisers through large scale soil testing programme.
- (v) Intensification of plant protection measures.
- (vi) Intensive training programme of farmers and extension workers in the latest production techniques.
- (vii) Organisation of mass contact campaign on wheat and nursery campaign for planting high-yielding varieties.
- (viii) Organisation of weeding campaign on bajra.

- (ix) Demonstration Programmes on wheat and paddy in selected villages with the help of Haryana Agricultural University staff.
- (x) Provision of short-term and medium-term production loans to the farmers to the extent of their requirements with special emphasis on provision of subsidies and loans to small and marginal farmers.
- (xi) Popularisation of dry farming practices.

Involvement of Students in Agricultural Operations

*82. SHRI A. P. SAMINATHAN:

SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

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

- (a) whether Union Ministry is working out a phased programme to involve the student community in agricultural operations;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government are consulting the State Governments in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the main features of the proposed scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since this subject concerns the Agricultural Universities and Colleges, the Vice-Chancellors of the Agricultural Universities have been consulted and advised to organise, train, and involve students in agricultural operations at suitable times in both Rabi and Kharif seasons. The Vice-Chancellors here further been requested to seek the cooperation of the State

Departments of Agriculture, is implementing this programme.

(c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been working with Agricultural Universities to evolve suitable programmes to involve students' community in agricultural operations with a view to meet two objectives:—

- (i) to help farmers in raising agricultural production; and
- (ii) by so involving, help students learn the practical and operational skills required in farming. While the involvement of students should be spread all the year round in different agricultural operations, their involvement on mass scale is recommended during epidemics such as outbreak of pests and diseases, etc.

A plan for organising Crop Protection Service Squads by staff and students of Agricultural Universities was prepared for Kharif, 1974, and was circulated to all the Agricultural Universities and Departments of Agriculture of the State Governments. The main action steps involved in the scheme were:—

1. Demarcate areas where yield is significantly reduced through incidence of pests and diseases in the major crop plants of the State.
2. Examine and streamline the pest and disease survey and surveillance programmes in the State and establish a Control Unit in the office of the State Director of Agriculture and the Director of Research of the University where the latest position from the Survey parties is received and analysed.