

Government is considering to reduce the price of fertilisers?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Sir, no study is available as to what has been the impact of the prices on the small farmers but it is well known that small farmers in this country have low purchasing power and when prices are high there must have been some difficulties. We are studying the situation. We are trying to see that credit is made available to the small farmers so that they are in a position to purchase fertilisers.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the hon Minister tell us how much fertiliser was in the pipeline when they had brought about this recent increase in price? Is it also a fact that while the retailers will make money because of this price increase, the Government will not get anything and also as a result of this the off-take has been much less?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Sir, about off-take I have already submitted that the off-take has not been less. It is more or less at the same level. As regards his other question as to how much was in the pipeline under import the hon Member may address the question to the appropriate Ministry.

श्री नरसिंह नारायण पांडे : माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा कि 27-28 लाख टन तक फर्टिलाइजर का इन्वेंट्री है। क्या उन्होंने स्टेट्स की रिक्वायरमेंट के बारे में भी आकड़े इकट्ठे किए हैं कि स्टेट्स की क्या रिक्वायरमेंट थी और उनको रिक्वायरमेंट को मुताबिक कितना फर्टिलाइजर उनको उन्होंने दिया ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Sir, the total demand has been on the high side but last year there was substantial carry-over from kharif season because many of the States could not utilise the same because of lack of rains and shortage of power. Many States are having large stocks. During rabi season there was no shortage as

such as compared to the earlier season. Even in the coming year the position is expected to be very satisfactory.

श्री सरजू पांडे : अभी माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि खाद के दाम बढ़ने की वजह से छोटे किसानों को खाद का इन्वेंट्री नहीं कर पा रहे हैं और खुद भी उन्होंने इस बात को माना है कि बहुत सारी स्टेट्स में खान कर उत्तर प्रदेश में फर्टिलाइजर का शॉर्टेज रहा है तो निकट भविष्य में फर्टिलाइजर को और मस्ता करने के लिए तथा उन स्टेट्स को पहुंचाने के लिए सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: About the supplies to the States during the coming kharif season there would not be any difficulty. I have not made a positive statement about the small farmers. I have said that we are studying the situation.

SHRI DHAMANKAR: I would like to know which are the States which have carry-over supply of fertilisers due to non-lifting by the agriculturists.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: A very large number of States have carry-over supplies including the State from which the hon Member comes, that is, Maharashtra.

Mechanisation of Cotton Cultivation

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*875 **SHI D D DESAI:**

SHRI P. GANGADEB:

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

(a) whether cotton cultivation has remained neglected in India so far as mechanisation is concerned;

(b) if so, whether any schemes have been introduced for mechanisation in cotton cultivation by the Haryana Agricultural University;

(c) whether the scheme is to develop and invent various implements

to facilitate sowing, weeding and harvesting of cotton; and

(d) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) (a) to (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha

Statement

Cotton Cultivation does not appear to have suffered in most parts of the Country for want of mechanisation. Timely sowing however becomes difficult in heavy soil if adequate farm power is not available.

A scheme for mechanisation of cotton cultivation was sanctioned in August, 1972 by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research at Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar, for a period of three years at a cost of Rs 201 lakhs with the following broad objectives —

- (i) Survey and study of the existing agronomic practices for cultivation of cotton
- (ii) Testing and evaluation of the available implements and machines for their suitability for cotton cultivation and modification of the same, for better performance
- (iii) Design and development of simple machines for cotton cultivation.

The following results have so far been obtained:

- 1 A delinter has been designed and tested
- 2 After testing of available seed and seed-cum-fertilizer drills, a three row bullock drawn planter has been designed, developed and tested.
- 3 A power weeder has been designed.

4. Feasibility studies on 'Knapsack Cotton Picking device' have been initiated.

SHRI D D DESAI: Sir, India is the home of cotton plants. Our production per hectare is about 160 Kg. whereas the production in Pakistan is double of ours. In some developed countries, it is as much as 900 Kg. Even in Mexico and Egypt, it is about 750 Kg. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, how is he going to bridge the gap in productivity between ours and that of other countries and how is he expecting our Textile industry to be economically viable to compete in international market with this low productivity? I would also like to know, if the country has developed the implements for mechanisation and what sort of arrangements has been made to make use of these implements for improving the productivity of cotton?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: Sir, as far as agronomic research is concerned we had already made very good progress and my hon. friend who is an agriculturist and a grower of cotton himself knows that some of the hybrid cotton have done exceedingly well and they can compete favourably with any other country in the world. I admit that as far as mechanisation of implements is concerned, we have not made very much progress. The Haryana Agricultural University Hissar has been experimenting with certain implements and they have already carried out some research on those implements. For instance, in regard to de-linting of cotton, they have done some good work. A seed-cum-fertiliser drill has been modified and it has been found quite useful. A bullock-drawn cotton planter has been experimented successfully. One prototype of a power weeder has been developed and the effect of defoliation on picking of cotton has also been experimented successfully. If the hon. Member is really interested, I would suggest that it will be worthwhile if he pays a visit to Hissar.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: Sir, the hon. Minister has given the information

about the implements which have been perfected by the Haryana Agricultural University and the Ludhiana Centre has tested them. Now, my question to the hon Minister is this: Having experimented that far, would he consider and would he see to it that the standardisation of implements is made and the workshop blueprints are prepared and widely distributed? This will create faith among the farmers because the farmers firstly distrust because of the sub-standard nature of new implements. Would he see to it that standardisation is done and the workshop blueprints are distributed as widely as possible with the intention of encouraging the farmers to raise the productivity?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN Sir, this is a very good suggestion made by the hon Member and we will circulate the blueprints to various Agricultural Universities so that they can popularise it.

SHRI P GANGADEB Sir, in view of the fact that Egypt has completely mechanised its cotton cultivation operations, with substantial results, I would like to know from the hon Minister, what are the hurdles in the way of adopting mechanisation of cotton cultivation in India and whether it is due to the lack of proper organisation to locate entrepreneurial ability at the district levels and if so, what action is being taken on a country-wide basis to achieve this mechanised cultivation specially to save foreign exchange on import of cotton year after year?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN Sir, the conditions vary between Egypt and India. Egypt has shortage of agricultural labour and manpower whereas India has excess of agricultural labour. Consistent with the employment problem in our country, we are doing everything possible to mechanise cotton cultivation.

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE Is it true that wherever schemes of

mechanisation of cotton cultivation have been undertaken in different parts of the country, because the cost involved is quite high, and in addition the Cotton Corporation is not able to have adequate purchase of cotton from the cotton growers by paying a substantial amount in cash, there is a tendency on the part of cotton cultivators recently not to undertake mechanisation at all? If so, what are the remedies you are going to have to prevent this tendency?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN A very large number of our cotton growers are small growers. Many of their family members themselves work in the fields and they do not feel the need for any mechanisation.

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE He has not answered my question. I pointed out the difficulties of those who are undertaking mechanisation. Even among them, the tendency is not to resort to mechanisation. He has not touched that. I am asking one question; he is answering something else.

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN It is a matter of economics, likes and dislikes. Those who try the experiment, if it suits them, they carry on with it, if it does not suit them they give up the experiment.

SHRI P VENKATASUBBAIAH Government are contemplating having many agro-service centres, also agro-industries corporations have been set up in each State. Will the knowledge obtained by these universities be transferred to these centres so that they may be in touch with the farmers and be of service to them without having to spend too much towards purchase of implements etc? Will this scheme be implemented by Government?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN Yes, wherever agro-industries have come up and where they need any assistance from us, we are always happy to impart that knowledge to them.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: In view of the fact that although the acreage under cotton cultivation in India is one of the largest, yet the per acre production in India is one of the lowest in the world, will Government consider the proposal of giving assistance to small and medium farmers in the matter of implements through the media of co-operative societies or servicing societies so that they can use implements which may not be very costly, which may have been designed and developed in our universities here, which may help them to grow cotton better?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: There are extension agencies in every block. Whatever implements are developed are displayed through the agro-industries or through demonstrations arranged by the universities or displayed even at the block level to the farmers so that they can see and select the implements.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I want to know the effect of what has been done so that the implements reach the farmers. We display them in a house. What is the use?

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking about the organisation of extension services for the transmission of this knowledge to those centres.

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: The hon. member has asked about the low production of cotton in our country. You are fully aware that while on the one hand, in some cases, the production is very low in certain other cases, our farmers have reached stages of production which compare very favourably with any of the best production in the world, like Varalakshmi cotton; there are several hybrid varieties of cotton evolved, long staple varieties, which are doing exceedingly well. We are imparting that knowledge and knowhow through the extension agencies all over the country.

श्री राम सिंह भाई : बाबू देव की स्थिति ऐसी नहीं है कि काटन कीप के भ्रन्दर मशीनीकरण का उपयोग किया जा सके क्योंकि देहातों के भ्रन्दर काफी बेकारी है। उनको काटन में बहुत काम मिल जाता है। जो कुछ बड़े बड़े जमीनों के मालिक हैं वह काटन की तरफ ज्यादा जा रहे हैं और यह काशिम कर रहे हैं कि इसमें मशीनीकरण का उपयोग किया जाय। क्या सरकार इस पर कायम रहेगी कि इसका मशीनीकरण न किया जाय ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन्होंने पहले ही जवाब दे दिया है, फिर दोबारा कैसे दोहरायें।

श्री शाहनवाज खां : मैं पहले ही कह चुका हूँ कि जहाँ जरूरत है वहाँ मशीनीकरण करेंगे, और जहाँ जरूरत नहीं है वहाँ नहीं करेंगे।

Chairman's Post in U.G.C.

*876. **SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR:** Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of Chairman of University Grants Commission lies vacant at present and if so, since when;

(b) the names, qualifications and experience of the University Grants Commission Chairmen since its inception; and

(c) number and names of the present personnel of University Grants Commission giving similar particulars about them?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): (a) Yes, Sir, since September, 28, 1974.

(b) and (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.