

MR. SPEAKER: You did not come last week. How can you get a chance?

Mr. Barupal.

श्री पन्नालाल बाबूपाल : राजस्थान के कृषि-प्रधान जिले गंगानगर को उचित मात्रा में उर्वरक न मिलने की वजह से किसानों की सारी धान की फसल नष्ट हो गई है और उन का भारी आर्थिक नुकसान हुआ है। क्या सरकार भविष्य में जिला गंगानगर के किसानों को उतनी खाद देने की व्यवस्था करेगी, जितनी उन की मांग है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: As far as Rajasthan is concerned, the internal distribution is the responsibility of the State Government. I would draw the attention of the State Government to this factor.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I want to put a very specific question to the Minister. I am not keeping the U.P. elections in mind. I want to know whether they have recently enhanced the quota for each and every State in the matter of supply of fertilisers in the country. If so, to what extent has this been done and under what circumstances has it been done?

MR. SPEAKER: How can you ask this question?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Supply of fertilisers by the Ministry of Agriculture is very much relevant. I may repeat my question.

MR. SPEAKER: If you were to judge the relevancy of it you better come here.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, I am only making a submission to you.

I am asking about the simple policy matter.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, Mr. Bosu, you will have to sit down.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I shall sit down after I finish my question. I am asking a simple question through you whether they have enhanced the quota of the supply of fertilisers to different States in the country. If so, to what extent and from what date. This is my question.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: We are not in a position to enhance the quota of any State in view of the less availability of the fertilisers in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: SQ. No. 104—Absent. SQ. No. 105—Absent.

Scheme to increase production of Pulses

*106. **SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where the scheme for increase in the production of pulses is to be introduced and the allocations proposed to be made for the purpose during 1973-74; and

(b) to what extent these schemes are likely to help reduce the gap in demand and supply of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) The scheme for pulses production has been launched in 15 important pulse growing States. The State-

wise allocations of funds during 1973-74 is given below:—

	Rs. in lakhs
Andhra Pradesh	7.30
Assam	1.60
Bihar	10.60
Gujarat	3.10
Haryana	21.20
Kerala	2.30
Madhya Pradesh	53.50
Maharashtra	8.00
Mysore	5.60
Orissa	11.00
Punjab	13.00
Rajasthan	27.70
Tamil Nadu	11.50
Uttar Pradesh	38.00
West Bengal	5.60
	200.00

(b) It is expected that the above scheme will help increase production of pulses by about one million tonnes during 1973-74.

SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: Before I come to my supplementary question, I would like to draw your attention to the answer given to part (b) of my main question, Part (b) of the question reads thus:

"to what extent these schemes are likely to help reduce the gap in demand and supply of pulses?"

The answer is:

"It is expected that the above scheme will help increase production of pulses by about one million tonnes during 1973-74."

It will be clear from this that my question has either not been taken

into consideration or it has not been rightly understood by the Ministry.

There is an acute shortage of pulses in the country. The prices are also soaring up. May I know the reason for the sudden disappearance of pulses and to what extent this shortage is genuine? What incentives have been given to the States by Government to increase the production during the last two years?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: It is difficult to estimate the precise quantity of requirement. But I may inform the House that during the last ten or fifteen years, progressively the per head availability of pulses has been going down, because the production has almost been stagnant while the population has been increasing. According to my information, the per head availability has come down from 25 k.g. per head in 1961 to about 18 k.g. per head. So, it is progressively going down. The other phenomenon which is also encroaching upon the programme of production of pulses is this. Pulses are grown in India under rain-fed conditions, and some of them in drought-prone areas. What is happening is that wherever irrigation facilities are available, the farmers like to divert those lands for growing wheat or other cereal crops, and this also is having an adverse effect on the production of pulses.

However, for increasing the production of pulses, we have selected 30 important districts in the country which are very important districts for this purpose, and a Centrally sponsored programme has been evolved for being implemented in these districts, and necessary funds also have been made available.

One of the most important strategies adopted is this. We find that if the pulse seed is treated with rhizobium culture, which is a microbiological product, the production increases. We have now decided to extend the necessary financial assistance to

agricultural universities and State Governments in order to produce more of rhizobium culture. It is a technical matter, and it will take some time before the production stabilises.

SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: It is an established fact that there is shortage of pulses, and since the production is going down every year, it is quite natural that we have to depend upon imports for the supply of pulses. In view of this, may I know whether it is a fact that Government had decided to import pulses during the last year to meet the immediate demand and if so, the quantity imported, the countries from where the imports were arranged and the foreign exchange involved? I would also like to know whether there is a scheme before Government to have self-sufficiency in production of pulses, and if so, by which year?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: There are very few countries in the world which produce sizable quantities of pulses. So, we cannot possibly depend upon imports. We have to see that efforts are made in our own country to increase the production. For instance, last year, the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance was good enough to sanction foreign exchange for import of pulses, and we explored the possibilities and found that the International prices were very high compared to our prices, and so, we would not find it a very feasible proposition to make import of pulses. In future, our strategy will be to produce the pulses within our own country. It would be difficult to indicate by what time we shall be in a position to meet our requirements adequately. But as I have said, with the new technology which is known in agriculture, it should be possible to increase the production in the years to come. Last year particularly, pulses production was bad because of drought. This year, fortunately, pulses production is expected to be much better

than last year. But as far as the long-term strategy is concerned, as I mentioned earlier, a number of things will have to be attended to.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Just now, the Minister said that the consumption of pulses had gone down. Is it on account of non-availability or on account of people taking more to non-vegetarian food?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: What I said was that the per capita consumption had gone down.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो वक्तव्य दिया है, उससे पता चलता है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में 38 प्रतिशत और मध्य प्रदेश में 33 प्रतिशत दाल पैदा होती है। क्या यह सही है कि जो बांग दाल या घान पैदा करते हैं उन को बहुत कम पैसा मिलता है और अधिक मुनाफ़ा दाल बनानेवाले कारखाने ले जाते हैं? उन को उचित दाम मिले, क्या ऐसी कोई नीति सरकार ने बनाई है? क्या दालों के दाम निर्धारित करने के बारे में सरकार विचार कर रही है, जिस से कारखानेवाले सारा मुनाफ़ा न खा जाय ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: At the moment, the prices are very high; the producer is also getting higher prices. In the long-term aspect of the problem, this is one of the factors. Government have applied their mind to it. We are contemplating in future some steps in order that necessary incentives are given to production. As I said, there are some other very important factors which are making the production stagnant which I have already enumerated in detail.