

WHEAT OUTPUT THROUGH SUDDEN SPURTS.

*589. SHRI N.† SHIVAPPA :

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of his Ministry to raise the country's wheat output by 'sudden spurts' so far as its growth rate is concerned; and

(b) if so, main features of measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) :

(a) and (b). Wheat output is proposed to be increased by increase in area under high yielding varieties specially resistant to rust; increase in area specially in North Eastern States and Extension education for timely sowing and improved management practices.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : I would like to know from the hon. Minister one thing. In view of the decrease in the yield of wheat in this country, may I know what steps is the Government going to take to meet this situation in this country?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Taking into consideration our population we would welcome increase in wheat production. As far as possible, there is no limit in the matter of wheat production. It is only a question of working out the formula to meet the requirements of wheat. Wheat is one of the crops whose production is going up as compared to other crops in the last five or six years. I should say that the wheat output has been doubled as compared to what it was five or six years ago. In the Fifth Five Year Plan we have fixed a target of 38 million tonnes in wheat production.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Now that the Government have agreed to the proposal of stepping up the wheat yield in the country, I would like to know the policy of the Government in this regard in the matter of even utilising the lands available in the country for forming government farms to produce more wheat therein so as to meet the situation.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Increase in wheat production is not just by organising government farms in the lands available. In fact, State farms are being organised by the State Farms Corporation. Our general assessment in the country is this. In Eastern India, particularly, Eastern U.P., Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and some parts of M.P. there are potential wheat areas where production of wheat can be more. We propose to concentrate on production of wheat in those areas.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that the world famous and Nobel Prize winner, Dr. Borlough had recently stated, in his visit to India, that new strains of Mexican variety have to be developed. Unless an effort is made to develop new strains, the net results that we would have in wheat production would be less. These strains do not last for a very long time. And so, we have to make efforts to develop new strains periodically. Is the Government aware of what he has said? What steps are being taken by them in this regard so that there is no setback in wheat production for want of proper wheat strains?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : We are aware of the statement made by Dr. Borlough. We ourselves, that is, in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research are aware of some of the problems of wheat development in this country. Our effort, therefore, is to put new strains as much as possible. At the moment rust 4-5 strains are popular in this country. And more 29 rust resistant are in the process of testing. They are likely to be released in the coming years. And adequate research

support is being provided for the effort to which the hon. Member has drawn our attention.

SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA : Apart from the improvement in the texture of the strain has it come to the notice of the Government that high use of fertiliser changes the texture of the land which results in deterioration of production of crops.

SHRI ANNASHEB P. SHINDE : I can only say we give maximum yield if adequate doses of fertiliser are available. It has not come to our notice that there is adverse effect of fertiliser on soil fertility but, of course, if organic and in-organic fertiliser is used naturally the soil fertility level is maintained in the best way.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM NATIONAL ROAD FUND TO KERALA

*591. SHRI VAYALAR† RAVI .

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of money sanctioned to different States from the National Roads Fund during the Fourth Five Year Plan and its State-wise break up and the total amount of money available under this head during the Fifth Plan for this purpose;

(b) a brief outline of the schemes undertaken in the State of Kerala with the assistance from this Fund and the total amount so far in that State; and

(c) what are the schemes proposed to be undertaken in that State during the Fifth Plan and the total amount proposed to be sanctioned?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). The required information is given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 6644/74]

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : May I know the total amount collected from Kerala only on account of the Central extra duty levied on the motor-spirit during the Fourth Plan? Whether it is a fact—even according to the statement you say Rs. 126.8 lakhs were available to the Kerala Government during Fourth Plan—you have not informed the Kerala Government regarding the allocation for 1971-72; 1972-73 and 1973-74? what is the reason therefor?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : Sir, in fact this amount of Rs. 126.8 lakhs has already been allocated to the State Government during the Fourth Plan. They have spent Rs. 47.48 lakhs out of this amount. So far as the rest of the money is concerned it will remain in the account of Kerala Government and will not lapse. The general principle is the total levy realised from the State on motor-spirit at the rate of 3.5 paise per litre is accrued to the Central Road Fund

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : There is not maximum utilisation of Central Road Fund by the Kerala Government due to other difficulties. Will the Government consider the proposals already made by the State Government to help road development in Kerala?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE . So far as the Fourth Plan is concerned the Kerala Government had forward 21 schemes. All these were sanctioned, and on the basis of that this amount of money was allocated. So far as the Fifth Plan is concerned, we have already called for suggestions from various State Governments including Kerala which are awaited. During the Fifth Plan also, money will be released to State Governments as per availability.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : In part (c) of the answer, it is stated that a sum of Rs. 146.65 lakhs is likely to be available to Kerala. Is this not based on the earlier prices? After the price rise of 25 per cent, will there be a revised estimate and will the money be made available to the State Govern-