

Taxes where they had underground water resources tapped, but ultimately found that the entire thing was drying up and now it is a serious problem and they are going to stop it. Therefore, in this context, may I know whether the Government is going to take up perspective planning in order to tap underground water resources before putting in pumps and all that ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** If we exclude the irrigated areas and assured rainfall areas, the area which can be classified as dry land under dry farming is about 40 to 45 per cent in the country.

Then, as far as exploring of underground resources of water is concerned, the Government's intention is to cover the whole of the country, but it is quite an expensive proposition, and it will take time. At the moment the UNDP project is exploring water in Rajasthan. Next we want to take up some areas in Gujarat and Maharashtra. In North India the water potential is identified below the Gangetic plain, but some efforts will have to be made.

**श्री सरजू पाण्डेय :** अभी माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताया है कि कैनाडा ने पेशकश की है डाईलैड ऐग्रीकल्चर और भूमिगत जल-सर्वेक्षण के लिए तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ जो लिस्ट माननीय मंत्री जी ने दी हैं उसमें उत्तर प्रदेश का केवल देहरादून जिला ही क्यों लिया है और यह जो सर्वेक्षण किया है इन अधिकारियों ने क्या उसमें आपसे भी कोई राय ली है या स्वतन्त्र तौर पर किया है ? दूसरी चीज मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कैनाडा किस तरह की सहायता भारत को इस सिलसिले में कर रहा है ? पैसे दे रहा है या किस तरह की सहायता कर रहा है ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** Some help is by way of expertise and by way of equipment. The Government of India also provides practically 50 per cent of the funds for this project. But these are pilot projects raised for the activities which have to be taken up by the Government of India from its own resources.

**SHRI RANGA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently I have sent a note in regard to the needs of the Srikakulam district which is a Naxalite stronghold and where they want to start a guerilla warfare on an experimental basis, and similarly on an experimental bases in the whole of India also. Would Government be good enough to give priority, at least when they call the next election, to the Srikakulam district as well as the Visakhapatnam district where there are great possibilities for tapping underground water but, where, at the same time today, even for want of drinking water many places are suffering because they cannot be tapped by ordinary wells ? Would Government do something in this direction ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** It is a suggestion for action. The Government will bear in mind the observations made by the hon. Member when we decide to extend the area of operation.

**SHRI S. KANDAPPAN :** In view of the fact that all the river sources have been tapped and Tamil Nadu depends entirely on underground water, I would like to know what sort of priority the Government will give for surveying the underground water potential in the Tamil Nadu area.

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** We are trying to give very high priority to this programme because we are aware that in this country, unless underground water resources are tapped along with the tapping of surface water, it will not be possible to solve the problem of agricultural production as well as covering large areas under irrigation. We have in mind for the future Plans, Tamil Nadu and a number of others States also.

**Boosting up Production of Cash Crops  
Like Cotton and Oilseeds During  
Fourth Plan**

\*788. **SHRI S. KUNDU :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the targets of production of cash crops such as cotton, cereals, oilseeds during the Fourth Five Year Plan period ;

(b) the estimated target and actual production during the last three years ;

(c) whether Government are aware that the target fixed cannot be achieved during the Fourth Five Year Plan ; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to boost up production of cash crops ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-4600/70.*]

(c) Being second year of the Plan, it is too early to say that the targeted level of production of all the crops would be achieved.

(d) Intensive cultivation measures on the lines of Package programme in the potential areas have been taken up to secure substantial increases in the production of cash crops. Research scientists have been working on coordinated projects to evolve varieties with higher yields.

SHRI S. KUNDU : Sir, I would like to crave a little indulgence from you in the sense that you always ask us to sit down because sometimes, according to you, we are irrelevant.

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you fore-guarding like this ?

SHRI S. KUNDU : The answer is incomplete and that is why I would like to draw your attention to this matter. In answer to parts (a) and (b) of this question, a statement is placed on the Table of the House. You will see from it, that as against my question about the estimated target and actual production during the last three years, the figures supplied are for last two years and 1970-71 also. How does "the last three years," include the current year of 1970-71 ?

MR. SPEAKER : Last three years.

SHRI S. KUNDU : They have given the figures for 1968-69, 1969-70 and 1970-71. When I ask a question in 1970, and ask for information for the last three years, they give an answer for the last two years. I just draw your attention to this, and nothing else.

Since the Minister is generally co-operative, you can leave it after cautioning him.

Now, I would like to know from the Minister—I hope the Minister is listening to me—

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : Yes, I am listening.

SHRI S. KUNDU : —since the production of cash crops is vitally necessary to feed some of these basic and important industries, and in view of the fact that in the last two years the targets have never been reached, is he prepared to say that the targets which have been planned out for the fourth Plan will ever be reached and, if not, what special programmes is he going to take to see that the targets are reached ? Am I very clear in my question ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I could see the point that the hon. Member has made about the omission on my part. I will try to correct it. About the figures which we have given, they have been given for three years. The current year has also been included, and that is why this omission has taken place. As far as foodgrains production is concerned, as the hon. House is aware, by and large we have succeeded in achieving a very high growth rate. Last year, for instance, the production target was about 101 million tonnes and our achievement was 99.5 million tonnes, very much nearer the target. This year also, if the winter rainfall is normal, our foodgrains production is expected to go on very well. Even in oilseeds, where we are facing some difficulty, this year the production is expected to be very much nearer the target. But substantial shortfall is expected in cotton and jute. Government is seized of the matter. The main reason for this is that in our country the production of oilseeds and cotton is dependent mainly on unirrigated areas and rainfall conditions. That is why we are not in a position to stabilise the production so far. But various steps are being taken by the government like supply of improved seeds, plant protection measures and various inputs. We are trying to reach the targets as early as possible, in the next few years.

**SHRI S. KUNDU :** Is it not a fact that whereas the acreage under oilseeds is increasing the production of oilseeds is decreasing during the last few years? If so, what are the special steps that are being taken to see that with the increase in acreage there is increase in production in the case of groundnut, cotton, castor, copra and *til*? What are the special steps that are being taken?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** It is true that productivity in oilseeds is not very satisfactory in recent years. Whatever increase in production has taken place is mainly due to increase in acreage and not due to increase in per acre productivity. Government is seized of the matter. What is happening is that good lands are going under other crops and coarse lands are coming under oilseeds. That is one of the reasons. But, ultimately, unless irrigation facility is provided to a very large percentage of oilseed acreage, I do not think this problem would be solved. Efforts are being made to increase production by supply of improved variety of seeds, various plant protection measures etc. In the case of cotton the problem is the same. 85 per cent of the production is dependent on unirrigated areas and the plant protection measures are found to be inadequate. Government are taking steps to provide improved seeds and to have adequate measures for having larger areas under plant protection measures.

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU :** We have been short of food, which was bad. We may be short of cloth this year, which is worse. I would like to recall to the Minister that though we have the largest cotton growing area in the world, we are producing only one-fourth of the cotton production of the world. I would also recall that our production per acre is 156 lbs. as against the world production of 312 lbs. and the production of Pakistan of 259 lbs. If you look at the targets which have been furnished it will be seen that as against 10 million lbs. we are expected to produce only, 7.61 million lbs. Under these circumstances, why has the Ministry not considered the necessity of increasing the provision for cotton development? In the Fourth Plan it is only Rs. 3.9 crores. As against this, I want to remind the Ministry that the Indian Cotton Manufacturers' Association, which is in the private sector, has provided as

much as Rs. 76 lakhs. I would like the Minister to give us a specific assurance that since we are spending as much as Rs. 90 crores for importing cotton, would he not be pressing for at least Rs. 10 crores a year for cotton development.

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** I quite share the anxiety of the hon. Member.

**SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :** Do something about it.

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** There fore I have taken up the matter with the Planning Commission so that more resources are made available for cotton development.

The hon. Member referred to high yields in other countries. I myself tried to find out as to what was the reason. For instance, the per acre yield in the Soviet Union is the highest in the world. I myself went there and found out that the main reason was that 98 per cent of the cotton area in the Soviet Union was irrigated. In India also I am trying to find out the possibilities of bringing larger areas under irrigation for cotton in our country. For instance, in Punjab the per acre yields are much higher as compared to other States and favourably compare with the yields in USA and other countries. The reason is that cotton area is irrigated there. Therefore the solution lies in more irrigation and plant protection measures and it will be my endeavour to take up the matter with the State Governments and the Planning Commission.

**श्री कांबळे :** अध्यक्ष जी, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ क्या उनको इस बात का पता है कि रूई और तिलहन का उत्पादन इस कारण घट रहा है कि उनकी कीमत स्थिर नहीं होती है। जब किसानों के पास माल होता है तो कीमतें घट जाती हैं और जब मार्केट में व्यापारियों के हाथ में माल चला जाता है तो उसके दाम बढ़ जाते हैं। इसका परिणाम यह है कि लोगों ने विशेषकर रूई का बोना बन्द कर दिया है? यदि सरकार को इस बात का पता है तो इस सम्बन्ध में उनकी कीमतों को स्थिर रखने के लिए सरकार के पास क्या योजना है?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : At the moment the prices of cotton are ruling very high but the problem of providing some stability to cotton prices is engaging the attention of Government. Already there is a floor price. Some time back the ceiling prices were also there but they were removed in the interest of the producers.

श्री शिव चरण लाल : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने स्वयं इस बात को माना है कि तिलहन की उत्पादन क्षमता कम है इसलिए मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिस प्रकार गेहूँ के बढ़िया बीजों में गेहूँ का ज्यादा उत्पादन होने लगा है क्या उन्ही प्रकार सरकार तिलहन के भी बढ़िया बीज वनायेगी जिससे कि उसका भी ज्यादा उत्पादन हो सके ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : Yes, Sir ; efforts are made in that direction.

**Cost of Production of Indian Tractors  
Higher than the Sale Price Fixed  
by Government**

\*789. SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cost of production of the tractors being produced by the Indian manufacturers is higher than the sale price fixed by Government ;

(b) whether some of the indigenous manufacturers who have already undergone heavy loss are thinking of closing down their plants ;

(c) whether already the indigenous production is much below the country's requirements and that we are importing large number of tractors from other countries ; and

(d) if so, what stands in the way of revision of the sale price of indigenous tractors to exchange and help indigenous production of tractors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE,  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND  
COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB

SHINDE) : (a) and (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) Government has no information.

(c) Yes, Sir.

*Statement*

(a) and (d). After examining the recommendations made by the Tariff Commission in its Report (1967) on the fixation of prices of agricultural tractors, the ceiling selling prices of indigenous agricultural wheeled tractors were notified under the Essential Commodities Act in June 1968. These prices were to be effective till the 31st March 1969. In June, 1969, representations were made by the tractor manufacturers that these prices were unremunerative and that they should be revised. A cost examination was accordingly undertaken by the Cost Accounts Branch of the Ministry of Finance with a view to ascertaining whether any increase in prices of agricultural tractors on account of changes after the 31st March 1969 were called for within the principles and formula laid down by the Tariff Commission. On receipt and examination of the Report of the Cost Accounts Branch, it was found that there was no case for any price increase within the principles and formula laid down by the Tariff Commission. However, as the manufacturers continued to press for increase in the prices of tractors, the Bureau of Costs and Prices was requested to undertake afresh a comprehensive cost examination of each of the tractor manufacturing unit. Their report is awaited. Further action on the representations of the tractor manufacturers for price increases will be undertaken on receipt and examination of the Report of the Bureau.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : According to the statement laid on the Table of the House by the Minister, we are told that a committee of cost accountants had gone into it and it was found that there was no need for increasing the price. May I know whether it is a fact that the prices of everything have gone up, particularly of steel, during the last one year ; that certain important factors which go into the cost, for example, the size etc., were not taken into account by this committee which went into