

MR. SPEAKER : This question seeks factual information about the progress of mechanised farming during the Third and Fourth Plans.

SHRI B. S. BHAURA : They have no mechanised farm.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA : In the statement laid on the Table on page 3 they have given certain quantity to be imported in the year 1969-70, namely, 1,24,000. Already they have decided to import 35,000 tractors. One particular brand among those, the GDR tractors, is being sold through State Agro-industries Corporations. The State Agro industries Corporation has also put in several complaints to the Government of India. The farmers who have purchased these tractors are losing. The farmers have also represented to the Government. But the Government has not done anything in the matter. What is the use of agricultural development and mechanisation with these defective tractors...

MR. SPEAKER : What is your question ?

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA : My question is : Will the Government come to the rescue of the farmers who have purchased these tractors for mechanised farming and refund the money for defective tractors which were sold by the Government of India through the State Agro-industries Corporation ?

MR. SPEAKER : He is raising the question of GDR tractors.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : There was a Call Attention notice on this.

### Objectives of Food Policy and Development of Dairy Projects

\*1154. SHRI INDER J. MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the main objectives of Food Policy of Government ;

(b) whether improvement of quality of food intake and removal of nutritional deficiencies form part of their Food Policy; and

(c) the measures adopted and planned to develop dairy projects in the public, co-operative and private sectors ?

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

### STATEMENT

(a) The main objectives of Government's food policy are as follows :

(i) To ensure that the producers get reasonable prices and continue to have adequate incentives for increasing production;

(ii) To ensure that consumer prices are stabilized and in particular that the interests of the low income consumers are safeguarded; and

(iii) To build a buffer stock of food-grains with a view to ensuring both the objectives mentioned above by selling from the buffer stock to meet shortages and high prices and buying for the buffer stock to support falling prices.

(b) The food and nutrition policy of the Government envisages a gradual improvement of quality of food intake and a progressive removal of nutritional deficiencies.

(c) Funds have been provided in the Fourth Five Year Plan for the setting up of new dairy projects as also for expansion and consolidation of the existing schemes in the public and cooperative sectors. Encouragement is given to the private sector to establish manufacturing units wherever feasible for the production of a wide range of milk products

**SHRI INDER J. MALHOTRA :** In answer to part (b) of the Question, it is stated :

“The food and nutrition policy of the Government envisages a gradual improvement of quality of food ”

May I know what is the process and what steps are being taken for this gradual improvement in the quality of food ?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :** The hon. Member is a very knowledgeable person. Ultimately, the problems of food deficiencies can be solved by increasing the purchasing power of the poverty-stricken masses in our country...

**SHRI INDER J. MALHOTRA :** My question is entirely different. It is based on the answer given in the statement. You say about gradual improvement of quality of food. I want to know what is the process involved and what steps Government have taken uptill now for achieving this gradual improvement.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :** I had not completed my reply. I was making a broad proposition. Normally, food deficiencies can be overcome by increasing the purchasing power. But in the

meanwhile, the Government is also trying to educate the people. There are a fleet of vans which go round to educate the people to improve the cooking systems because even cooking systems are defective. We have also organised catering institutions in order to have modern system of cooking. We are also trying to educate people about dietary habits through various organisations. But these things have their own limitations and a limited impact.

**SHRI INDER J. MALHOTRA :** In answer to part (c), it has been mentioned that encouragement is given to the private sector. I would like the hon. Minister to specify what kind of encouragement, is given and up till now what has been done in this respect.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :** This refers to organisation of dairies. Where public sector dairies are functioning, we are not encouraging the private sector to come in.

**SHRI INDER J. MALHOTRA :** You say here that encouragement is given to the private sector. What type of encouragement ? What has been done up till now ?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :** Where there is no operation of public sector dairies, if somebody, even a private party, wants to set up a dairy unit in order that marketing facility is made available to the producers, the Government gives licence to them.

**श्री नरेन्द्र सिंह बिष्ट :** क्या मंत्री महोदय बनलायेंगे कि बच्चों को न्यूट्रिशस फूड मिले इस के लिए सरकार के विचाराधीन कोई योजना है ? यदि हा, तो वह क्या योजना है ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB P SHINDE**  
There is a Balahar project and the school children are being provided with mid-day meals and the programme is being operated in south India. Then the Government of India is also thinking of expanding the programme. As the hon. Member is himself aware, the Finance Minister himself has suggested some financial outlay for taking up a large scheme of this nature.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि हम निजी क्षेत्र में प्रोत्साहन दे रहे हैं दूध के लिए। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आपन कोई ऐसी योजना बनाई है कि जो व्यक्ति गाय खरीदना चाहता है या उस के माध्यम से डेरी खोलना चाहता है तो उसे प्रोत्साहन दिया जायेगा? यदि हा तो अब तक कितने आवेदन पत्र आये हैं और कितने को आप न सहायता दी है?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB P SHINDE**  
Credit is made available to the persons interested and this is looked after by the State Governments, cooperative organisations, commercial banks and all that.

**SHRIMATI LAKSHMIKANTHA-MMA** There was a scheme for the supply of cows from Bombay Aaray Milk colony and some other places and I learn that that scheme is suspended, where cows were distributed among the farmers as well as the MPs for the development of the dairy. Why has the scheme been suspended? May I know whether the scheme will be revived?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB P SHINDE**  
This can be considered by the concerned State Government. Naturally, that is a State Government's scheme and we are prepared to give assistance even now. The State Government says that they are not in a position to meet their own require-

ments and if there is a surplus they are prepared to give it to the Centre and if that is done the same facilities given to MPs and others can continue.

**SHRI PARIPOORNANAND PAINULI** Is it a fact that many of the dairy projects in cooperative sector are facing closure due to competition with private sector and if so, what steps do the Government propose to take to save them?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB P SHINDE** It is not so everywhere. State Governments are taking steps in order that the interests of the public sector dairy projects are safeguarded.

**SHRI B. S. MURTHY** What is the machinery available at Centre's disposal and the norms formulated to see that producers get adequate price and that the lowest income group of consumers also get adequate benefit?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB P SHINDE**  
State Governments look into it. Naturally there cannot be uniform policy in the matter throughout the country. But these points are taken into consideration by the local dairies and State Governments.

श्री राम सहाय पाण्डे . समार के विकसित देशों में इस प्रकार का प्रबन्ध है कि बच्चों के पैदा होने के पहले बच्चे की माँ का ध्यान रखा जाता है और अच्छे, सुन्दर तथा स्वास्थ्यकर भोजन की व्यवस्था की जाती है। हमारे देश में दुबल बच्चे बहुत पैदा होते हैं, उन्हें न्यूट्रिशन फूड देने के पहले उन की जो माताएँ हैं उन के सम्बन्ध में ध्यान का क्या विचार है?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB P SHINDE**  
The problem of distributing milk to poorer sections is very important and a programme of providing nutritious food is

being worked out but the programme can only be a model one, because the requirement is so vast and ultimately it is a question of increasing the standard of living of the people.

**SHRI R. S. PANDEY :** Both programmes should go together.

**SHRI N. K. SINHA :** Does the Minister know that despite the educational programmes which he is indulging in, *per capita* consumption of milk in the country has gone down from five ounces to three ounces ?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :** Availability of milk is increasing; population is increasing, also. That marginal difference is there. But this is a point which we are taking into consideration.

**Percentage of Population Dependent  
on Land and Fall in per capita  
availability of Land**

\*1157. **SHRI N. K. SINHA :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

Census year	Agricultural workers (in thousands)	Total workers (in thousands)	Percentage of agricultural workers to total workers
1961	131,048	188,572	69.5
1971 (Provisional)	126,012	183,605	68.6

Due to difference in the definitions of a "worker" followed in the population Censuses of 1961 and 1971, the above figures are not strictly comparable. For example housewives whose main activity is not agriculture are in 1971 Census not

(a) whether percentage of population depending upon agriculture has considerably increased during the last decade;

(b) whether *per capita* availability of land has gone down; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

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

STATEMENT

(a) Information about population dependent on agriculture as such has not been collected under the population Censuses of 1961 and 1971. The following table, however, shows the number of agricultural workers (*i. e.* cultivators plus agricultural labourers), total number of workers, and the percentage of "agricultural workers" to "total workers" according to the 1961 Census and the provisional figures of 1971 Census :

shown in the category of agricultural workers. As such, it is difficult to draw conclusions from these figures. However, when the 1971 Census data are fully processed and analysed, it may be possible to make some comparison between the 1961 and 1971 figures.