

Punjab, of course—is being ignored and not being covered under this scheme?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : So far as first part of the question is concerned, it is not possible to say anything at present as Phase-III has not started.

So far as Haryana is concerned, it was in the National Seed Project Phase-I. It was under that project and now the State Government has not requested for participation and it is not necessary also because it was covered already.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to submit that the Madhya Pradesh Government is always complaining that it gets only 2 per cent of its total requirements of improved variety of seeds and the rest of the 98 per cent is obtained by the farmers from other sources. As a result, they are often cheated and the crops are destroyed. Will you make any provision to ensure that more seeds are made available in Madhya Pradesh as per your new policy laid on the Table?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : We are in a position to meet the entire requirement in this regard. Whenever any State requires seeds, we give it through the National Seeds Corporation. The States also have their own State Seeds Corporations from where also they get their supplies.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Only 2 per cent of their total requirement is available.

MR. SPEAKER : Do they take the seeds of opium as well?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : They can obtain it from the National Seeds Corporation.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is heartening to know that quality seeds are provided in time. But is there any agency which assesses the rate of germination? I

bought a packet of soyabean seeds a month ago and sowed them but even 5 per cent have not germinated. If this is the quality of the seeds supplied to the farmers from the Seed Corporations and various other agencies, then only God can help them.

MR. SPEAKER : You should ask how the 5 per cent seed germinated?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, the seeds are tested in the seed testing laboratories. *(Interruptions)* There random sampling is done but special checking is undertaken in case of complaints.

(English)

SHRI K. S. RAO : Sir, it is agreed by everybody that the timely supply of quality seeds is very essential for agriculturists. Keeping in view several complaints made by the agriculturists in various parts of the country, will the Minister think in terms of encouraging farmers cooperative societies or certain private agriculturists who have proved their competence or have achieved some medals from the Government for their achievements in the production of quality seeds and give financial assistance to them, particularly agriculturists in Andhra Pradesh? In Andhra Pradesh there are good number of competent agriculturists who have proved their competence in modern techniques.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The Government is always encouraging the cooperative societies as also the private breeders. They are encouraged by the Government by certain programmes through the National Seeds Corporation for cultivation of good quality seeds.

[Translation]

National Commission for drinking water and sanitation.

*359. **SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a separate national commission for drinking water and sanitation;

(b) if so, the details of administrative and financial powers of the proposed commission; and

(c) the time by which the commission will start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise at present.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked the question with great hope but the answer is disappointing.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BAIKAVI BAIKAVI : Mr. Speaker Sir, ask Shri Ramanand to speak in Hindi, whenever he speaks in English, there is always some confusion.

MR. SPEAKER : It always happens when we borrow something.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are making efforts for solving the drinking water problem and we have been making efforts in this direction since our First Five Year Plan but still we have not been able to find a permanent solution to this problem and there are many rural and desert areas where drinking water is not available. A technology mission has also been set up for this purpose. I think the drinking water problem should be given top priority and a national commission should be set up otherwise drinking water will not be available even by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan. Why does not the Central Government allocate special funds for this purpose so that this problem can be solved ?

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : Sir,

the Government of India is according priority to the problem of drinking water and a High Technology Mission has been especially set up to find a solution to the rural water supply problems. It has taken up some 50 pilot projects and by applying the results of the projects we shall be able to solve the problem and more funds are being allocated for the purpose and we have achieved some measure of success as well.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : What kind of report has been presented by the High-Technology Mission and how will it technologically help in solving the water problem ?

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : The High Technology Mission has a certain programme of action. It has to find the sources. In some places water may be available at great distances, at other places the water may not be proper, the fluoride content may be high or it may have other toxic materials and so it has to be treated accordingly. The technology mission has to look after these things.

(English)

The technology mission are getting the cooperation of so many organisation in the country.

(Translation)

These organisations would assist the mission in improving the traditional method of water supply which will be costeffective and will also take less time. Besides, the technology mission has to implement the new technologies and it has achieved a high degree of success in its efforts.

(English)

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 20 districts were selected for supply of pure drinking water sometime ago and the names of the districts were also announced. Various technology missions and institutions were involved for the purpose of implementing this scheme. May I know as to what is the

amount that has been allocated for the implementation of this scheme from the Centre and what is the assistance which each State is giving for the scheme? Also, what is the time schedule for supplying pure drinking water to these 20 selected districts?

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, mini missions have been established in 23 districts to date. Rs. 2 crores were granted to each of the eleven missions which were set up in the very beginning in different districts of the different States and Rs. 50 lakhs have been released for each of the 12 new missions established subsequently.

[English]

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : What is the time schedule for implementation?

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : We think that we shall be able to supply water to our rural population by 1990, and we may be successful because the different institutions with which we have collaborated are cooperating with us fully. However, even if we are able to solve the problem at one place, the problem may aggravate sometime later and unless the people are made aware of the need for conserving our water resources, the problem may spill over as well.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to submit that water in some districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar like Deoria, Gorakhpur and Seewan, to which the hon. Minister belongs, has a low iodine content due to which people are affected by diseases like goitre. It is causing difficulties to the people and the water is also not clean. Will the Government order a survey in these areas to ensure that such diseases are controlled and clean water is also made available?

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a technology mission has been set up in Mirzapur, a district in eastern Uttar Pradesh, and where there is a constant shortage of drinking water. In the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh, water becomes polluted on account of floods. So far as goitre is concerned, its treatment is not the subject of this Ministry. But wherever there are more than one source of water, the technology mission will find out which method should be adopted to eradicate that disease. In this way, the problem of that area can be solved.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : The water lacks iodine content.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : Your State Government is being constantly supplied the iodised salt on account of this problem.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether new districts will be taken up during 1987-88 under the pilot scheme? If, so, whether provision has been made for the same? Secondly.....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Whole Government is a pilot scheme!

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Secondly, Sir, wherever the technology mission has been set up and it has submitted any report already, may I know whether the report submitted includes any new technology?

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : We are thinking of taking up the mini schemes in the second and third phases and discussions are going on in this regard.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : My question has not been answered.

MR. SPEAKER : He is saying that he will look into it.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, let him put the question.

(English)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : You are pleased to permit me to put the question. My question has not been answered.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : He has not answered my question.

MR. SPEAKER : He said, he will look into it.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : You are promising to "look into it" on his behalf. He has not replied to my question.

(Translation)

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : You may ask.....

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I was asking that in 1957-88 no new schemes ..
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : I will understand your English, you may speak in English.

MR. SPEAKER : We shall see.

(English)

That is what he said.

(Translation)

We shall see.

Indo-Soviet cooperation in agriculture

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*361 SHRIMATI BASAVARAJES-
WARI :

SHRI P. M. SAYEED :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a long term agreement for cooperation in agriculture between India and Soviet Union was signed recently;

(b) If so, the main features of the agreement;

(c) the extent to which the Soviet Union has agreed to improve agricultural schemes in India; and

(d) the time by which the implementation of the agreement is likely to start ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (d) A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. A Long Term Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of India and the State Agro Industrial Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in the field of agriculture upto 2000 AD was signed on 12-2-1987.

(h) Economic and Technical Cooperation

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of India and the State Agro Industrial Committee of the USSR, have agreed to cooperate for mutual benefit on the basis of economic viability through the establishment of 100% export oriented units, joint ventures, technical collaborations etc. in the following areas :—

(i) Soyabean processing;

(ii) Production and processing of vegetables and fruits for export;

(iii) Production of chemicals such as furfural and citric based on agro-industrial wastes;

(iv) Construction of modern scientific