

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, November 16, 1987/Kartika 25,  
1909 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair.*]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Strategy for Rabi Pulses

\*124. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have chalked out a detailed strategy for the production of pulses during the forthcoming Rabi season;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the target set for the purpose; and

(d) the efforts proposed to be made to meet the target ?

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.

(b) to (d) For increasing production of pulses during the Rabi season a twin approach of increasing the area and also the yield levels has been adopted. The strategy suggested to the state Departments of Agriculture is as follows :

(i) Rabi pulses like gram, peas and lentil may be fitted into the irrigated farming systems.

(ii) Inter-cropping of gram with mustard, safflower and Rabi Jowar would be popularised.

(iii) Efforts would be made to cover maximum areas under Moong/ Urd in the rice fallows with residual moisture in different states.

(iv) Yield levels are to be increased by popularising the low cost technology i.e. timely sowing, optimum seed rate, effective and timely weed control.

(v) Increased use of inputs like application of phosphatic fertiliser, seed treatment with rhizobium culture and adoption of need based plant protection measures would increase the production per unit area.

The targetted production for Rabi is 8.5 million tonnes which has now been raised to 10 million tonnes in order to compensate the possible short-fall in Kharif pulses.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to how much pulses have been imported till now, the countries from which imported and the total amount involved in the import ? I would also like to know the target fixed to grow pulses during the Rabi season for Karnatka State.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : So far as the import is concerned, we have imported from various countries like, Australia, Ireland, Singapore, Syrea, Netherland, USSR, Switzerland, U.K., Sri Lanka, Japan, Italy, China, Kenya Ethopia, Malaysia, Belzium, Vietnam and the Germany. The total quantity imported in 1983-84 was 2,27,929 metric tonnes and in terms of value it is Rs. 82.87 crores. In 1984-85 the import is 2,35,390 metric tonnes and the value is Rs. 100.70 crores. In 1985-86 the import is 4,29,746 and in terms of value it is Rs. 189.09 crores.

Now, so far as the Rabi season is concerned, You wanted to know the total target ?

**SHRI R. L. BHATIA :** She wanted to know the strategy first.

**SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :** The strategy for the production of pulses is to motivate the small and marginal farmers particularly in the rain-fed areas we have made provisions for the supply of seed, fertilisers and other inputs to the farmers at their doorsteps. Credit is the important thing and we have made provision for the supply of credit to the farmers also.

**SHRIMATI BASAWARAJESWARI :** I would like to know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the kits of seed fertilizer and insecticides meant for distribution among the small marginal farmers of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other minority sections are not being distributed properly. In this regard, I have been pointing out various instances to the State Government. What action is the Government taking to see that these kits reach the really needy persons ? Secondly, I would like to know whether the Government has received a proposal from the Government of Karnataka that if the Central Government gives assistance for the construction of irrigation projects in those areas in Karnataka where the soil is suitable to grow pulses, the Government of Karnataka would assure that they would try to grow only pulses so as to save foreign exchange that would have to be spent while importing pulses.

**SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :** So far as the mini kits are concerned, these schemes are implemented by the State Governments. Government of India finances the scheme and the State Government implements them. With regard to complaints, wherever there is a complaint, we can inquire about it. So far I have not received any complaint and if the hon. member has any information about complaints, I will inquire into them. So far as the irrigation schemes are concerned, I have no information at present. But I will supply the information to the hon. member.

**SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :** Are there any proposals for promoting pulses of short duration crops ?

**SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :** There is no such proposal, but the ICAR has developed a seed for short duration varieties and they have developed a number of varieties in pulses also.

**SHRI BIRINDER SINGH :** As far as growing pulses is concerned, it is a gamble for the farmers. Is there any proposal with the Government where if the farmer does not get the full crop of pulses, his loss would be recouped by the Government ? In a way, only paddy and wheat are the assured crops and the pulse crops are not at all assured and that is the reason why pulses are not conducive for the farmers to grow. So, is there any proposal to recoup the loss incurred by the farmers, so as to encourage them to bring more and more area under the cultivation of pulses ?

**SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :** There is no proposal to compensate the loss incurred by the farmers if they cultivate pulses. But under the strategy for production of pulses, we have requested the State Governments and the extension agencies to promote inter-cropping of pulses.

**PROF. N. G. RANGA :** What about minimum prices ?

**SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :** We have requested the extension agencies as well as the State Governments to promote inter-cropping of pulses in different crops.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Do we need your permission for inter-cropping ?

**SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :** We have requested the extension agencies to promote inter-cropping methods. We have not issued any orders. Nor can we issue orders. We are only educating them.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Yes. You can educate them. You cannot order.

**SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :** Then, there are certain early varieties developed, such as the summer-moong. An early variety of Arhar is already developed by the ICAR. It is used as an inter-crop in bajra and many other crops.

**SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN :** If the anticipated increase in the production of pulses

does not materialise, how much import does the Government propose to make this year ? I also want to know whether the imports will enable to reduce the prices of pulses which are very high at the moment.

**SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :** Imports depend upon the overall shortfall. Due to drought this year, there will be shortfall. At present, it is not yet assessed as to how much shortfall would be there. If there is shortfall, we will consider the proposal of importing pulses.

**PROF. N. G. RANGA :** What about fixing the minimum Price for pulses ? Till now it has not been done. What must be the reason ?

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G. S. DHILLON) :** The earlier member, Mr. Mahajan enquired about the probable quantity of pulses that were imported. We propose import to only 2 lakh M. T. NAFED and STC importing one lakh M.T. each. I think the question which Mr. Mahajan has asked related to this and I have answered it.

**SHRI SOMNATH RATH :** The Government have schemes to grow more rice in certain States and they are subsidising the seeds, fertilizers and insecticides.

Similarly, the Government should have special schemes to grow more pulses and subsidise the cultivation just like they are doing it in case of rice.

For that the hon. Minister has given the reason as droughts. But I would say the pulses can be grown if the moisture is less and also if there is some rains.

What steps are being taken so that pulses can be grown in fallow lands and also the lands where the moisture is less ?

**SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :** The hon. Member is right, when he said the pulses can be grown if the moisture is less. I said earlier that we have Promoted these extension agencies to promote the inter-cropping, particularly in the States where the pulses are grown. There are number of steps which the Government of India have taken, particularly, like the following :

1. Distribution of seed minikits of latest short duration improved varieties of different pulses.

2. Organising block demonstration to educate the farmers about the production technology.
3. Laying out of adaptive trials of promising varieties on farmers fields.
4. Biological control of pod borer through release of parasites etc.
5. Training of extension workers to educate them in organising the development programme of pulses.
6. Production of breeder/foundation seeds with the help of ICAR, NSC and SFCl.
7. Subsidy on plant Protection Chemicals for the control of insect, pests and diseases on pulse crops.
8. Organisation of seed village.
9. Stocking and pre-positioning of seeds.

The seed is subsidised at present. The plant protection chemicals are also subsidised. Minikits are given free to the farmers.

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD :** Has the Madam incharge of house department or the kitchen of the hon. Minister told him as to what are the ruling prices of pulses in the market today ? It is Rs. 13 to Rs. 14 per kg.

May I know from you, whether it is due to the droughts which you have referred or whether it is due to some lack in the strategy or the supporting price or that the demand of pulses in the country is much outweighing the production ?

If it is so, how far the strategy which is enunciated by the Minister will be able to make up the demand in the country or the shortage in the country ?

And what would be the effect on the prevailing prices ruling today ?

**DR. G. S. DHILLON :** Sir, there is no Madam in my house. Only my housewife is there.

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD :** May I know from you whether it is official or unofficial ?

DR. G. S. DHILLON : Only official ! She told me that there was rise in prices during the last 3-4 months. But I would say that since last month, the prices have come down. You should better ask your Madam regarding this.

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the farmer is paid at the rate of Rs. 600 per quintal though the price of pulses in the market is Rs. 14 per kg. Why is there such a vast difference ? The difference is more than 100 per cent. What is the Government doing to bridge this gap and provide remunerative prices to the farmers ?

[English]

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Do you mean to say the production prices and the prices available to the farmers ?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : And the supply price in the market.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Do you mean to say there is a vast difference ?

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : It is 100 per cent, more than 100 per cent.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : This is ultimately the question put by Prof. Ranga, the hon. Member Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad and the other hon. member. All of them have put the same question. It is about fixation of the prices by CACP of the pulses. Now this policy is particularly for the foodgrains which are more in production and the prices are falling. When the prices are low, the government wants to assure the farmers that the remunerative prices will be given to them and the government will procure it. So, it is an assurance to the farmers that the government will procure their products. The fixation of prices is for that only. Now, here is a commodity which is short in supply. Therefore, the prices are always ruling high and there is no necessity of fixing the prices.

**HUDCO Scheme for Rural Landless Labour**

\*125 SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the outlines of the scheme which was launched by HUDCO for providing houses for the rural landless labour; and

(b) what were the State-wise targets under the scheme and how do they compare with the progress made so far along with the response of the banking sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) HUDCO provides financial assistance to agencies nominated by the State Governments, against State Government Guarantee, for the implementation of Rural Housing Schemes for the benefit of landless labourers, upto 50% of the cost per unit (excluding cost of land), repayable in 11 years. The rate of interest is 6% if the cost per unit (excluding land cost) remains within Rs. 6,000 and 7% if the cost per unit (excluding land cost) is above Rs. 6,000 but not more than Rs. 10,000. The scheme is in operation since 23-12-1985.

(b) Every year, based on the availability of funds, HUDCO allocates specific amount of loan to be sanctioned to each State/Union Territories on the basis of its area envelop, population etc. for implementation of their Rural Housing Schemes with HUDCO's financial assistance. Upto 23-12-1985, HUDCO had sanctioned 633 rural housing schemes including those for rural landless labour. From 23-12-1985 till 30-9-1987, HUDCO has sanctioned 222 more rural housing schemes including schemes for the rural landless labour. Statewise details of loan allocations and loans sanctioned by HUDCO for rural housing schemes during the year 1986-87 are set out in the statement below.

As regards response of the Banking sector against a total loan allocation of Rs. 50 crores or weaker section housing, HUDCO has so far been able to draw an amount of Rs. 48.86 crores from a consortium of 22 Banks.