

expertise is available in many other areas also.

**SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN :** The hon. Defence Minister has just mentioned that the intention is to absorb the technology *in toto*. Now so far as the manufacture of the Advanced Helicopter and the Light Combat Aircraft is concerned, to ensure that they are manufactured on target, will the hon. Minister be kind enough to state if there is any scheme to have in-built research and development at HAL because at the moment there does not seem to be any, so that day to day research and development may be done with an eye to ensure manufacture of these aircraft.

**SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL:** Absorbing the technology is really a very big problem. Technologies are of different kinds — technology to produce the material, technology to produce the components, technology to produce the system, technology to produce the equipment, airframe, avionics, engine and all those things. We do have certain technologies. In certain areas, it has become necessary for us to get help from outside. We get help from outside and try to absorb that technology. We do not stay there. But we improve upon having taken it from outside. This process is going on. HAL is spending a certain amount of money on development of technologies. They do have R&D organisation. In 1986-87 they have spent about Rs. 44 crores on technology development whereas in 1982-83 they spent only Rs. 11 crores. Thus the attempt is being made to develop the capacity in order to develop the technology in HAL.

#### **Central Assistance for Foodgrains Production**

\*311 **SHRI H.B. PATIL:** Will the MINISTER OF PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved any new Action Plan and Criteria for financial assistance to the States to achieve foodgrains production of around 175 million tonnes by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

#### **STATEMENT**

(a) and (b). A Task Force under the Member Incharge, Agriculture, Planning Commission has formulated a Framework Action Plan for achieving foodgrains production level of atleast 175 million tonnes by the end of the 7th Five Year Plan. The Framework Action Plan adopts a selective approach for districts having potential for higher production which can be realised in the short period. A total of 169 districts in 14 States are to be taken up in respect of the Five foodgrains crops of rice, wheat, maize, gram and arhar. The strategy frame of the Action Plan envisages the identification of production constraints operating in the selected districts and the measures required to remove them. The resources required for this purpose are to come mainly from the existing provisions available under on-going schemes and programmes with marginal increases, where critically necessary, for removing a specific constraints within the limited time frame of two years. Detailed district-wise Action Plans are to be framed by the State Governments to be operationalised from Kharif, 1988. At the Central level nodal responsibility for implementing the Framework Action Plan would be with the Department of Agriculture & Coop. in the Ministry of Agriculture and

Cooperation.

**SHRI H.B. PATIL:** May I know from the hon. Minister names of districts selected in Karnataka by the Action Plan for identification of production constraints operating in those districts, cropwise and district-wise?

**THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER):** In Karnataka the districts that have been selected are Belgaum, Hassan, Coorg, Chikmagalur, North Canara, Dharwar, Shimoga, Gulbarga and South Canara. All these 9 districts have been selected for rice.

**SHRI H.B. PATIL:** Is the Government aware that the prices of foodgrains fixed by the Agricultural Prices Commission are very low than the commercial crops and, therefore, the farmers are opting for more commercial crops than foodgrains? Does the Government propose to have any scheme to make foodgrains production more remunerative in order to achieve the target by paying more supportive prices?

**SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER:** This supplementary is not connected with the question itself. This deals with the Agricultural Prices Commission which is dealt with by the Agriculture Ministry. So a separate question is required for that.

**SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI:** The action plan is reported to have thought of even at the district level. I would like to know whether the details have been worked out; whether the States have been consulted; if not, whether the proposal will be discussed in the next NDC meeting which is scheduled to be held on 19th because here is the question of increasing the food production by 175 million tonnes, which is not a joke. I would like to know whether concrete plans have been

discussed with the States.

**SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI:** Sir, the Central Government, before finalisation of the selected districts, had discussions with the State Governments on 7th February 1988. Only after discussing with the State Governments, this proposal of selecting districts in fourteen States was finalised.

**SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI:** That you have already stated.

**SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER:** Your question was whether the State Governments were taken into confidence and discussions had taken place. My hon. colleague is trying to reply to you saying that on 7th February 1988 there was a meeting where the State officials of all these fourteen States were called and details were discussed. They gave certain alternate plans also. That was also discussed. Matters of details, with reference to each district, were also discussed and finally we have come to the conclusion that 169 districts must be earmarked for this purpose.

I would like to submit that the Agriculture Minister has called a meeting of the Chief Ministers and the Agriculture Ministers on 18th, for the purposes of giving thrust to this programme and to discuss with those authorities also.

**SHRI VJAY N. PATIL:** This is an important question, Sir. Half-an-hour discussions should be allowed on this.

**SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH:** Sir, the biggest agricultural assistance or incentive that the Central Government can give to farmers today for increasing production, is to give them remunerative prices. May I know in this connection whether the Government is aware of the fact that the farmers today do not consider the existing support prices as remunerative or fair? In this connection, may

I know whether the Government of India is prepared to consider the desirability of an upward revision of these remunerative prices?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, the matter is under consideration of my colleague, the Agriculture Minister.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, in the Budget Speech, the hon. Finance Minister has already admitted that this time the food production has declined by ten to fifteen million tonnes. It comes to near about seven to ten per cent. In view of this fact, will the hon. Minister tell us, since our agriculture at present depends very much on the vagaries of the rains, what concrete plans is he taking up to see that dependence of our agricultural production on the vagaries of rains is considerably reduced through better water management? If they accept this fact, then what are the concrete details of the schemes of water management that they propose to take up?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, the hon. Member has asked the question about the better management of the water itself. In fact, I would like to answer, at the outset, that the estimation of the Agriculture Ministry, as also of the Planning Commission, is that in the terminal year we will be falling short by about eight million tonnes of foodgrains. Instead of achieving the target of 175 million tonnes, we might end up to round about 166 or 167 million tonnes. It is to offset this and to achieve the target of 175 million tonnes that this Task Force was appointed, which has gone into the details of the crop pattern, the water management, the seeds supply, the fertiliser and so on. The whole gamut has been gone into. They have taken into account each and every district, taking into consideration what better produce can be effected in that area. Well, it will take quite a good time for me to read out as to what steps have been taken, but I have no objection that

after... (*Interruptions*).

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: But do you agree that so far we are depending mainly on the vagaries of the rains?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I agree that to a great extent we have been depending on the nature itself. That is why in order to get over the dependence on the nature itself and to work out our own strategy, this Task Force was entrusted with the job. One of the points that this Task Force was given was to go into the question of the soil type, the major constraints to higher production, that is, inadequate irrigation, poor drainage, seeds, pest problems... (*Interruptions*).

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#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

#### Studies Re. Effect of Radioactivity from Nuclear Power Stations on Incidence of Disease etc

\*302. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scientific, controlled, independent studies have been conducted to determine the effects of radioactivity in the vicinity of nuclear power stations in the country on incidence of disease, ailments, fall in the birth rate, etc.;

(b) whether such studies in the UK, USA and elsewhere have revealed disturbing trends; and

(c) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken?