

picture...*(Interruption)* Deaths have been due to malnutrition, not due to starvation. I have also seen the meals which the villagers partake. Their meal consists of 'chapathis' made of wheat flour and the poor people, as they are partake these chapattis with green chillies. What is needed is that some sort of pulses or green vegetable should be supplied to them so that their meal may be rich in nutritive value. Previously they used to get buttermilk which kept them healthy. The report of the Desert Centre is very alarming. In fact, the situation is alarming. The Rajasthan Government is distributing wheat and providing gratuitous relief to the people of those areas. But this situation is restricted to certain areas only. The Central Government should join hands with the Rajasthan Government to meet the situation.

**SHRI BHAJAN LAL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member said that lack of adequate proteins in the diet made the people weak and this weakness led to their death. How can we jump to such conclusions? There are so many places where 'chapattis' are eaten with raw onions or green chillies. In many areas, specially in rural India, green vegetables are not available. People take Chapattis with 'chutney.' We have seen it with our own eyes. It is true that because of drought Rajasthan is facing the problem of cattle. Buttermilk is in short supply because milch cattle have perished. Poor people usually partake chapattis with butter milk. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you must be knowing about this as you have lived in a village. Gram flour is mixed with buttermilk to prepare 'Karhi' (Curry) and millet flour is mixed with buttermilk to prepare 'Rabrhi...*(Interruption)*. Yes, Yes—how would the hon. Member know that buttermilk is used to prepare 'Karhi' (curry). How would a citizen of this jet-age know about the recipes of rural India?...*(Interruption)* Shri Rao is sitting near the hon. Member, he can tell the recipe for making 'Karhi' (Curry)...*(Interruption)*. How can the hon. Member, used to eating choicest delicacies, know about ordinary Indian dishes?...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, could you please satisfy their curiosity by telling them as to what preparations can be made with buttermilk. The Government has opened fair-price shoppes in the remote areas of the country. In these areas it is hard to get essential commodities like flour,

cereals, salts, spices and other items of daily use. Retail outlets have been opened for the supply of these items. The cooperatives and the Government have opened these shops for the convenience of the people. I want to repeat that there has been no starvation death in the country. Deaths could be occurring due to illness and some other reasons. Till now this Government has not let anyone die of starvation. Nor will it let anyone die due to this in future.

[English]

#### Agro Climatic Zones

\*374. PROF. NARAIN CHAND  
PARASHAR† :  
SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER  
JAIN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 16 November, 1987 to Starred Question No. 135 regarding the demarcation of the country into different-Agro-climatic Zones and state :

(a) whether the agro-climatic zones have been set up;

(b) if so, the names of the agro-climatic zones alongwith the regions covered by each of them and the details of the scheme envisaged for the development of these zones; and

(c) if not, the time by which the zones would be demarcated and the schemes worked out in detail ?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

#### Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has undertaken the exercise for organising agricultural development planning, based on agro-climatic zones in the country.

(b) and (c). Details of 15 agro-climatic zones along with the regions covered are given in the statement below.

Planning Commission has constituted a sub-group representing Department of Agriculture, Planning Commission, I.C.A.R. and the State Agriculture Universities to suggest crop pattern, forestry, animal husbandry, and Agro processing activities suited to each agro-climatic zone.

## Statement

*Agro Climatic Zones in India*

Sl. No.	Zone	States/Areas covered
I.	West Himalayan region :	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Parts of Himachal Pradesh and hills of Uttar Pradesh, West Punjab.
II.	Eastern Himalayan region :	Arunachal Pradesh, Himalayan West Bengal, Assam and associated hills, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura.
III.	Lower Gangetic Plain region :	West Bengal Plains.
IV.	Middle Gangetic Plain region :	North Bihar plains, South Bihar plains, Eastern Uttar Pradesh.
V.	Upper Gangetic Plain region :	Central Uttar Pradesh, North Western Uttar Pradesh, South Western Uttar Pradesh.
VI.	Trans-Gangetic Plain region :	Delhi, Punjab northern plains, Southern and Central Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan Sriganganagar area.
VII.	Eastern Plateaus and hills regions :	Bihar Chhotanagpur plateau, West Bengal Plateau, Orissa inland, Chhatisgarh area of Madhya Pradesh Wain Ganga and Hill Division of Maharashtra.
VIII.	Central Plateau and hills regions :	Bundel Khand of Uttar Pradesh, Northern Plains and plateau of Madhya Pradesh, Central plateau and hills of Madhya Pradesh, Vindhya hills and plateau of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan plains and hills, Rajasthan plateau.
IX.	Western Plateau and hills region :	Khandesh, Marathwada and Vidharba of Maharashtra, Malwa plateau of Madhya Pradesh.
X.	Southern plateau and hills region :	Telangana, Rayalseema and Chittoor of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu inland, Southern and northern plateau of Karnataka.
XI.	East Coast Plains and hills region :	Coastal Orissa, Coastal Andhra, Tamil Nadu, East Coast, Delta of Tamil Nadu, Southern part of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry.
XII.	West Coast Plain and ghats region :	West Coast and Niligiri Divisions of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Coastal and Western hills of Karnataka, Konkan of Maharashtra and Goa.
XIII.	Gujarat Plain and hills region :	Gujarat plain and hills.
XIV.	Western dry region :	Western dry areas.
XV.	Island region :	Andaman, Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Minicoy and Atmindivi islands.

[English]

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR :

The question was regarding the demarcation of the country into different agro-climatic zones. Presumably, the whole of the country was to be demarcated. But unfortunately and geography of those who demarcate seems to be very poor. Some parts of Himachal Pradesh are in western Himalayan region. But what about the other part? What about Mizoram? What about Meghalaya? Are they not parts of any agro-climatic zone?

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire country has been demarcated into 15 agro-climatic zones. This has been done to enable the people to plant the right type of crop according to the climatic conditions and soil quality of the area. The process is still incomplete. A full scale survey has been conducted for this purpose. Representatives from the States, the Planning Commission, Ministry of Agriculture, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (I.C.A.R.) and Agricultural Universities will participate in the process. These officials will go into the pros and cons of this matter and finalize it within 5-6 months. If any problems still persist, efforts will be made to solve them. This is being done to utilize our agricultural potential to the maximum within the constraints of climatic and soil conditions. This welcome decision has been taken by our hon. Prime Minister to increase agricultural production.

[English]

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : My question was simple; but anyhow since the Hon. Minister has stated that the demarcation of the zones has not been completed, may I know as to the date on which the demarcation was started, the time it has taken for this incomplete demarcation and the time that would likely be taken for the complete demarcation and what are the exact specifications because some areas are left out.

Secondly, may I know that what are the exact guidelines that have been given to those who demarcate these zones and to develop them; and also whether zonal centres will be set up in each of these zones so

as to give special attention to these agro-climatic zones?

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no question of leaving out any State. All the States will be covered. Work relating to zone demarcation was started in 1987 and as I said before, the process will be completed within 6 months.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Mr. Speaker Sir, I welcome the steps being taken for demarcation of the country into agro-climatic zones. Drought Area No-14 in the Western Zone has also been included. I want to know the districts selected in Drought Area No. 14 of the West Zone. Secondly, I want to know why the Members from the Lok Sabha have been precluded from this Committee.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : The hon. Member said that Members from the Lok Sabha have not been included in this Committee. To this I shall say that this type of work can be handled better by technically qualified people and specialists in the field. They can clearly determine which area should fall in which climatic zone e.g. drought affected areas in the drought zone, areas with heavy rainfall in the rainfall zone etc. A final blue print will be prepared only after considering all aspects. Any area which may be left out will be included later.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

##### Reported Sale of Spurious Weedicides in Punjab

\*367. SHRI SITARAM J. GAVALI :  
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH  
MALIK :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news appearing in the "Tribune" dated 19 February, 1988 wherein it has been stated that spurious weedicides are being sold in various parts of Punjab;