

be sold through students, home delivery agents, ex-servicemen or some organisations. This system is still prevailing although there has been some shortage in milk supply due to the summer season. The senior students are still being paid Rs. 6 for one shift and juniors are getting Rs. 4 per shift. The persons who are engaged for home-delivery service are getting 20 paise per litre. The ex-servicemen are being paise per litre. We have not made any changes in this regard. As regards the increased expenditure, every effort is being made to keep on eye on it so that it can be reduced. You have submitted that expenditure is increasing due to poly-packing, but it is not so. Poly-packing will be much cheaper and wastage is also very less. Several schemes are being implemented for increasing efficiency and reducing losses. We try to have constant vigilance in this regard. The management is being improved and the distribution rules are being streamlined to avoid wastage in every respect. If you take the average of our daily production which has increased substantially then you will find that the expenditure has not increased in that ratio. The average daily production which was 3.25 lakh litres in the 1985-86 has increased to 3.77 lakh litres in 1986-87 and 3.96 lakh litres in 1987-88. Thus there has been a constant increase in the supply of milk and losses has also not been too much and the relevant figures are with you. The controlled price is kept at the minimum which is so low that it is not possible to buy milk at this rate. Our sale price is Rs. 3.30 per litre. You tell us whether you can get milk at this price in the market? We buy milk at more than Rs. 4 per liter from the market. The losses as I have stated are very less. The loss in the bottling system was a little more, but the present system of poly-packing is more profitable and people are able to carry it easily.

[English]

Crop Prospects

*126. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Meteorological Department has reported that the rains this year will be satisfactory in the country and if so,

the position in different States upto July, 1988 ;

(b) the crop position in different States ; and

(c) the position of floods and the consequent damage to the crops reported from different State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. India Meteorological Department has forecast good rainfall for 1988. Upto 27th July, all the States of the country except Arunachal Pradesh have received normal or excess rainfall.

(b) Sowing and transplanting operations for the Kharif crops so far have progressed timely, except in the case of Saurashtra region and West Rajasthan, where sowing of groundnut and bajra were delayed. With the rains received during July, the situation in these regions also has now improved.

(c) There are reports of floods in the river basins of Bhuriding and Brahmaputra in Assam, Ghagra and Kosi in Bihar, Rapti in U.P., Tista in West Bengal, Godavari and Krishna in Andra Pradesh besides flash floods in other parts of the country. Out of the normal cropped area of about 810 lakh hectares, about 6.7 lakh hectares is reported to have been damaged due to floods.

SHRI S.G. GHOLAP : This year the rains are very good and it is reported in the newspapers that good rains like this year were there only in 1898 and not thereafter. In 1983-84 food production was of the order of 153 million tonnes. What is the target fixed for the production of foodgrains and oilseeds, and what will be the additional production of foodgrains because of the good rains this year ?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : What will be the production, we cannot forecast immediately, but the target fixed for this year is known. The hon. Member knows, that the Prime Minister took a serious view that the level of production this year was not increasing and he has fixed the target at 166

million tonnes of foodgrains, for this year, that is for 1988-89. Out of this, 92.50 million tonnes are targeted to be produced during kharif season. I think the rainfall has been fairly good throughout the country and it is bound to increase the production. We are sure to achieve this target.

SHRI S.G. GHOLAP : I have already stated that in the newspaper, it has been stated that we had good rains in 1988 only. I want to know whether it is a fact. What is the total loss estimated due to floods in different States? What is the aid sanctioned by the Central Government? What is the number of deaths due to floods?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : We are already discussing this subject in great detail in the House and the discussion is going on. We have also informed the House the latest position which we have received. I do think the damage to the crop has not been very much. Just early crops, particularly in Assam, has been damaged. Othrewise, sowing season has been going on and rice plantation has also been going on. In some parts where kharif crop, bajra, maize was to be sowed has also been sowed. At present, we do not apprehend any high damage in any part of the country.

So far as the deaths are concerned, we are receiving the information. Now, I do not have the information, I will supply it later.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the monsoons this year have been good and as a consequence the crops too are good but there had been drought in some areas for 2 to 3 years. The rainfall received in such areas created a new situation that as soon as the seeds germinate they are infected with different diseases. In almost the whole of Malwa region every crop has been inflicted with disease. In such a situation dobut is being expressed as to whether the Government will be able to achieve its target. Through you I want to ask from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government will make arrangements in co-ordination with the State Government to save the crops from diseases with the

help of the insecticides in the country. Do you have any scheme to this effect? If so, I would like to know the details thereof so that I could inform the farmers accordingly.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bairagi has put a very good question. Yesterday, I went to Ludhiana and came to know there that previously you used to give 25 per cent subsidy in Punjab and aerial spray was done there. This time neither any subsidy has been given nor any arrangement for aerial spray has been made. Who will be held responsible if the whole of cotton crops get destroyed? You must look into this because it is an extremely important question. If we fail to save a crop being grown in our country, it would be a drawback on our part. You must look into this matter. I have myself talked to the Governor of Punjab this morning this matter.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever you said is very appropriate. If a disease spreads any place and no effort is made to check it, it will cause damage. We have no information at present that some sorts of diseases have spread. We... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am giving the information... (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER : We are providing you the information... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : You are giving the information, and I am telling you that we have sent one Government official to each State to take stock of the arrangements made with regard to availability of insecticides and steps taken to check diseases to the crops. They visited every State and held talks with the local officials.

MR. SPEAKER : You should also look into the matter with regard to adulteration of pesticides. The pesticides-dealers indulge in a lot of adulteration. They should be apprehended.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : In so far as I understand, no such orders have given on our part with regard to Punjab. However, I will look into the matter and

ascertain the facts as to which level and on whose direction this has been done. We will see to it that spraying of insecticides continues as usual and any subsidy...
(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You are aware of the situation in Punjab. You should tell us about Punjab. Do you know about the Punjab situation or not ?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : I will look into it and inform you accordingly. No reduction has been made in the subsidy provided to the farmers. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALKAVI BAIKAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the farmers are being supplied old stock of pesticides which are of no use. It has been in use since the past 2 to 3 years.
(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, he is exercising his fundamental right of ignorance !

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : That is why I have mentioned it. These corrupt people indulge in such practises. Not to talk of pesticides, they do even hesitate in giving spurious medicines which kill the people. It is quite essential to look into this matter. Last year also people indulged in such practises.

[*English*]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : I shall confine to part (c) of the question. As usual, In Andhra the floods have occurred during this year also. Has the Central Government received any report from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh requesting for immediate assistance? If so, has the Government sent any team to Andhra Pradesh to assess the flood situation there ?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : There is no doubt they have sent an interim memorandum. I think, only one or two days back we have received the memorandum. That will be looked into, and some necessary steps will be taken.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Janga Reddy to speak. You have come after a long time. What happened to you ?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Today he has even taken off his collar.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : I want to submit to the hon. Minister that the hon. Prime Minister did achieve his target by stopping subsidy to Punjab and Andhra Pradesh. Instead of encouraging the farmers and increasing the amount of subsidy, it has rather been stopped. This will not do and you will not be able to achieve your target by scraping off this 25 per cent subsidy.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : We will look into this matter which has been mentioned by hon Speaker, but no subsidy has been stopped.

SHRI SHANKAR LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is, that after a severe drought for the last four years, Rajasthan has received rainfall this year and the farmers want to increase their agriculture production but they do not have resources to increase their production because their purchasing power has gone down due to the drought situation. Will the Government give them some special assistance for purchasing tractors, insecticides, fertilisers and seeds to enable them to increase agricultural production ?

MR. SPEAKER : He is thinking about it.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : We are looking into it.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shabahuddin, will you speak about agriculture ?

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : 99 per cent people in my Constituency also are dependent on agriculture.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIKAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today Shri Arif Mohammad Khan is tilling his land.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : It is me who is tilling his land. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, god alone knows whether the seeds provided to the farmers after floods last year were substandard or what they were.

MR. SPEAKER : This is an outdated matter.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I want to ask whether the National seeds Corporation has adequate reserve this year so that it may provide seeds to the flood stricken states when the demand comes from there. Last year they had supplied the foodgrains under the name of high quality seeds by borrowing it from the F.C.I. on the ground that the National Seeds Corporation does not have adequate seed stock. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether he has made sufficient preparations for this year.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : So far as the first question is concerned, I want to say that it has already been debated in this House and reply too has been given after thorough investigation. The intention was not that good quality seed should not be provided. It was told that the seed borrowed from F.C.I. was useful and it germinated well. The State Governments and the Central Government together prepared an estimate of the seeds required this year and according to that every State had as much seeds available with them as required by them. Adequate stock of seeds was available in Bihar for this year Kharif cultivation and no complaint has been received by us regarding the scarcity of seeds. Transplantation work of paddy has already been finished in Bihar. Therefore, I presume that there is no scarcity of it.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bairagi, have you ever sent an invitation to Shri Shahabuddin ?

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : I am sending him the invitation to come here.

[*English*]

**Conference of State Ministers on
Women's Development**

*127. **SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :**
SHRI V. TULSIRAM :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Conference of State Ministers and Secretaries dealing with Women's development was held in New Delhi on July 4, 1988;

(b) if so, what specific steps were considered and decided upon for women's development and to effectively curb crime against women including dowry deaths; and

(c) the follow-up action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is given below.

Statement

The State Governments endorsed the strategy for women's development contained in the draft National perspective plan for Women. The State Governments were urged to gear up their enforcement machinery to deal with crimes against women and help in meaningful implementation of the laws aimed at women's welfare and development.

The draft National Perspective Plan is being finalized taking into account the views of State Governments, State Social Welfare Advisory Boards, voluntary organisations and representatives of women's