

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : As I told earlier, we have been able to identify and confirm the involvement of microplasma like organism which is called MLO. That is a type of virus which affects the trees and causes the Rootwilt disease. That thing has been isolated.

Now research is going on to find out an effective medicine or insecticide which can cure this. There are certain ways in which we can remove the plants affecting the areas. We have to make effort for eradication of 13 million diseased palms in the early stages or advanced stages in Kerala. The steps suggested are:

(c) Varietal reaction to disease: The disease incidence was lower and the cumulative under yield higher in hybrid chowghat crange Dwarf.

b) Organic recycling and (c) Management Practices, etc. These are very necessary in order to reduce the incidence of disease. For that we have to provide irrigation during January to May along with fertilisers etc. to improve...

PROF. P.J.KURIEN : Have you got the medicine so far?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : As I have said earlier research is going on but it has not been possible to get an effective medicine so far.

SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL : I have one of the largest coconut plantations in India. Unfortunately during the last sixty years this disease has affected in Kerala but no remedy has been found out.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, allow half-an-hour discussion on this.

SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL : During the last 60 years they have not been able to find any remedy. Can they collaborate research with foreign countries so that quick remedy can be found? Secondly there is no fund for irrigation facilities to

coconut trees and coconut trees need irrigation. Further long-term and sufficient loans are not available to the farmers. There is also lack of superior quality seedlings.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : So, far as first part about finding of some medicines is concerned as I have said earlier research is going on and we have not been able to find an effective medicine. Virus has been isolated and even outside nowhere effective medicine has been found out. Efforts are being made. As far as irrigation and loans facilities are concerned I would to say that irrigation facilities are provided and what ever facilities are there the State Government can augment them. As far as loan is concerned there is no dearth of loan. I have myself visited many places near Mysore where loans are being distributed by the nationalised and cooperative banks for coconut growers. As regards seedlings and seed-nuts there is demand of 150 lakh per year and as supply is concerned we are trying to provide ordinary seedlings and seednuts but also hybrid seednuts and seedlings are being provided to the tune of 3 lakh per year.

Import of Seeds Under OGL

*187. **SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to permit the import of seeds including hybrids of oilseeds, pulses and course grains under Open General Licence in order to secure for the farmers high quality seeds available anywhere in the world to maximise their yield and farm income;

(b) the steps taken to procure such high quality seeds;

(c) whether any company has approached Government in this regard and if so, the names of those companies and the companies which have been permitted to import seeds and how these imported seeds will be distributed amongst farmers; and

(d) the other measures being taken to increase the production of oilseeds, pulses and other course grains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). Import of seeds of vegetables flowers/ornamental plants and tubers and bulbs, cuttings and saplings of flowers only is permitted on OGL by identified categories who after obtaining registra-

tion and an import permit may import.

(c) A Statement is given below.

(d) In order to increase the production of oilseeds, pulses and other coarse grains, various central/centrally sponsored programme like National Oilseeds Development Project (NODP), Oilseed Production Thrust Project (OPTP), National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP) have been sanctioned.

STATEMENT

NAME OF THE ELIGIBLE COMPANIES TO WHOM PERMISSION HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY PLANT PROTECTION ADVISER (PPA) FOR IMPORT OF SEEDS UNDER OPEN GENERAL LICENCE (OGL)

| Sl.No. | Name | Date of Receipt of Application | Name of the Seed | Quantity in KG. |
|--------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | M/s. Nizzer Seeds., Nizzer Farm, Amritsar. | 2.11.1988 | Tomato Watermellon Pea | 4.750 108.00 2.00 |

NAMES OF THE COMPANIES WHO HAVE APPROACHED PLANT PROTECTION ADVISER (PPA) FOR IMPORT OF SEEDS UNDER OPEN GENERAL LICENCE(OGL)

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| 1. | M/s. Pocha Seeds Private Company, Poona. | 8. | M/s. Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Limited, Bombay |
| 2. | M/s. Ankur Hybrid Seeds Corporation, Ahmedabad. | 9. | M/s. Preet Gardens, Chandigarh. |
| 3. | M/s. Joseph Thomas, Kerala. | 10. | M/s. Devappa & Sons, Bangalore. |
| 4. | M/s. M.S. Virayaghavan, Madras. | 11. | Mr. George Philip, Kerala |
| 5. | M/s. Premasrinivasan, Madras | 12. | Dr. K.C. Azad, Simla. |
| 6. | M/s. Punjab Agro Industries, Chandigarh. | 13. | M/s. Sandoz India Limited, Bombay. |
| 7. | Dr. T.B. Garud, Maharashtra. | 14. | Dr. S. Natesh, New Delhi |

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Sir, I must congratulate the Government particularly the Minister for taking this decision of importing hybrid seeds which may give more yield. In this connection may I know from the hon. Minister which are the countries which are

selected for import of their hybrid and high-yielding seeds, the quantity of such high-yielding seeds, hybrid seeds, cuttings, vegetable seeds, etc., to be imported from different countries during 1988-89 and 1989-90 and the policy for fixing up the price of those imported hybrid seeds?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : A new policy has been announced recently. It is effective from 1st October 1988. It has been mentioned in that policy that the National Seeds Corporation, the State Seeds Corporation, private companies, farmers and individual can import the seeds. Therefore, we do not know from which countries these identified or designated agencies are going to import.

However, I have got the figures for 1985-86. During this period, the seeds of fruits, flowers, etc., were imported from Japan, Netherlands, USA, Denmark, Australia, Federal Republic Germany, Guinea, Nepal, Zimbabwe. From these countries, different seeds like those of cabbage and other vegetables, grass, flower seeds, bulbs (horticulture), other bulbs, tubers, other live plants, etc., were imported during 1985-86.

The countries to which we exported seeds of cabbage, onion, radish, fruits, bulbs (horticulture) other bulbs, tubers, flowering plants, etc., are Australia, Netherlands, UAE, UK, USA, Oman, Japan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Germany....

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Lay it on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : You lay it on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Yes, Sir. I think, we do not have any control on the price. It is left to the market which will take over. It will itself control it. The demand and supply position will fix up the price.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Now I put my second supplementary. According to the statement annexed, the hon. Minister has stated that among the 14 such private companies and firms, except Punjab Agro Industries, all the private firms and companies who have approached the Government for getting such licences under OGL.

May I know when the private companies and firms have shown their keen interest to import such hybrid seeds from the foreign countries, why is the Government not thinking to at least encourage our National Seeds Corporation to import such seeds?

Besides, in part (c) of my question, I had asked how the imported seeds were to be distributed amongst the farmers. On that issue, the Minister is silent. He has not answered anything on this point. May I know what is the Government policy to distribute those seeds to the farmers, especially the small and landless and marginal farmers who have shown their interest to use these? Why I am asking this question is...

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right. You have to put the question. You have not to explain why you are putting it.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : The Government policy was to distribute some 5-10 grammes of hybrid seeds to the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER : Please let it go now.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : That policy has been stopped. So, in this connection, may I know how it will be distributed to the farmers, especially to those belonging to the small and marginal category?

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you repeating it all the time?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : If the hon. Member cares to go through the new Seeds Policy, he will find that the National Seeds Corporation, State Seeds Corporations and other Government agencies, Directorate of Agriculture etc. Have been placed on a bit

higher position. They can import and they will not be tied up to the conditions imposed on private companies, because the companies will have to import only for two years and within two years, they will have to have the parental line from the foreign collaborators.

So far as the Government agencies are concerned, they are not tied up with this condition and are free to import at any time. They are given preferential treatment and have been provided with special facilities, and liberalised conditions.

About the distribution, it is the National Seeds Corporation and other State agencies which will distribute as they are required to do and as the demand is received from the States. So far as the private dealers are concerned, they will be free to sell it in the market.

As regard hybrid seeds, they are supplied by the State agencies; they do not contain imported seeds. No doubt, they have improved varieties of seeds which are available in our country.

SHRI ANANDA GAJAPATHI RAJU : The oilseeds production has remained at around ten to twelve million tonnes for the past five-six years and there is no scope of increasing the production in oilseeds. Even though the irrigation facilities have been increased, they are still inadequate. Will the hon. Minister state by the import of oilseeds how much production will increase and when we will be self-sufficient in oilseeds?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : The present policy does not allow import of oilseeds under OGL. It is mostly vegetables, fruits, sapplings etc. Though there is shortage, we will have to meet it out of our own resources. That is why we have taken up the National Oilseeds Development Project and such other programmes and for that special efforts are being made to increase the production of oilseeds. We have been providing free input kits to the small and marginal farmers like 50 per cent subsidy on cost of plant protection equipment, subject to Rs

300, 50 per cent cost of sprinkler irrigation sets, 50 per cent cost of implements, plant protection chemicals at subsidised rates and other facilities. We hope that the production will increase with all this assistance.

[*Translation*]

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the benefit of the seeds being imported at present is going either to the licencees or the shopkeepers? Sir, I would like to know whether the imported seeds would be useful in the changed climate and soil of this region; and whether the small farmers would achieve any benefit out of it. If so, how much? May I know whether the Government propose to provide high quality seeds suitable for the climate and soil of the country so that the farmers may have good yield. May I also know whether the Government is aware of the fact that the imported oil seeds prove beneficial for the farmers?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Sir, the Government is fully aware that the imported oil-seeds are rich in yield in the climate and soil of this region. If the imported oil-seeds do not give rich yield, there will be no demand for them. This fact would be kept in mind while importing such seeds. All the agencies, whether National seeds Corporation or any private agency, would be very careful about it. So far as the facilities provided to the farmers are concerned, they wouldn't be deprived of those benefits which they are already enjoying.

[*Translation*]

Interests of Small Scale Industries In Food Processing

*188. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA†:
SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total export of processed food;