

Edible Oils

* 223. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether self-sufficiency in Edible Oils has not yet been attained;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the gap between the demand and supply of edible oils at present;

(d) the quantity likely to be imported during the current year and for next financial year;

(e) whether any long-term or short-term plan has been formulated to achieve self-sufficiency in the edible oils;

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There are several reasons for the lower production and productivity of oilseeds in our country. Only about 20% of the oilseed crops are being irrigated. Hence, the extent and spread of rainfall has a critical role in the productivity of oilseeds. There has been a limited expansion in the area under oilseed crops due to the available substitution of crops like coarse grains and foodgrains. Lack of hybrid/HYV seeds is also an important factor as the required quality seeds are available to meet only 10% of the total requirements. Oilseeds are also susceptible to pests and other diseases. The production of oilseeds is yet to receive the desired priority in the extension set up in the country. In spite of these limitations, the production of oilseeds has increased from 169.2 lakh MTs in 1989-90 to nearly 220 lakh MTs in 1994-95. The estimates of production of oilseeds for 1995-96 is around 225 lakh MTs.

(c) The estimated gap between the demand for and supply of edible oils in the country during the year 1995-96 is likely to be 7 to 8 lakh MTs.

(d) The entire quantity of import of 1.5 lakh MTs for the Public Distribution System by the State Trading Corporation has already been completed and no decision has yet been taken regarding the quantity of imports for the next financial year.

Another six lakh tonnes are reported to have been imported by the National Dairy Development Board and private agencies.

(e) and (f). Some of the measures taken by the Government to achieve self-sufficiency in edible oils are :

(i) Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme of oilseeds;

(ii) Assistance in the form of subsidies are being provided to Oil Palm Growers' on seeds, inputs and for drip irrigation. Oil Palm Growers' are also being trained under the scheme at the established plantations in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, and also at Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (ICAR), Palode in Kerala.

Infrastructure for development of Oil Palm has been created which includes establishment of seed garden, nursery, frontline demonstration, demonstration processing unit, leaf analysis laboratory and a comprehensive training programme etc. By the end of 1994-95 about 16,100 hectares have been brought under Oil Palm. A target of 23,700 hectares has been set for the current year (1995-96).

(iii) Better incentive to the farmers through fixation of minimum support prices of major oilseeds;

(iv) Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) provides essential assistance to the States for production and distribution of quality seeds, plant protection measures including supply of plant protection chemicals equipments and organising demonstration of advanced technology, with particular reference to mustard, groundnut, soyabean and sunflower.

(v) A Technology Mission on Oilseeds was established in May, 1986 for harnessing the best of production, processing and management technology;

(vi) Increasing the areas under non-traditional oilseeds crops like soyabean and sunflower, exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran etc.

(vii) Concessional rate of custom duty on certain equipments considered necessary for modernisation and cost reduction of edible oils and fats;

(viii) Fiscal incentives designed primarily to augment production of oil from non-conventional sources.

[Translation]

Revamped Rural Functional Literacy Programme

* 224. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) the number of persons likely to be made literate till 1995 and 1996 under the Revamped Rural Functional Literacy Programme; and

(b) the details of rural areas likely to be covered under the Programme, State-wise?