

[27 April, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) if not, the reasons, therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) questions do not arise.

Improvement in the Productivity of Cash Crops

3553. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to improve the productivity of cash crops like coffee, tea, rubber, coconut etc; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The steps taken by the Government for increasing production and productivity of Coffee, Tea, Rubber and Coconut are given below:

Coffee: The Coffee Board implements programmes for intensive cultivation, replanting, quality improvement and water augmentation. The Board has also been providing necessary support in the form of agricultural research, extension, arrangement of credit and finance and other necessary back up supports like supply of coffee seeds for planting purposes. The productivity of coffee which was around 780 Kg/ha. at the beginning of 8th Plan has increased to 860 Kg/ha. by the end of 8th Plan. On productivity front, India ranks 3rd among the major coffee producing countries.

Tea: Tea Board is encouraging activities such as replanting, rejuvenation and infilling, extension planting, new plantation, creation of irrigation facilities, improvement of drainage and Research & Development. The productivity of tea in India has increased from 1794 kg. / ha. in 1991 to 1996 Kg. / ha. in 1998.

Rubber: The Rubber Board is making available financial and technical assistance for new planting and replanting with improved varieties, production and distribution of high yielding planting materials to growers, rendering advisory, extension and training service; encouraging group processing and marketing among small holders, undertaking research on cultivation, production and processing of rubber. A World Bank assisted Rubber Project is also under implementation from 1993-94 to enhance production and improve quality of

natural rubber. The productivity of rubber in the country has increased from 1130 kg / ha in 1991-92 to 1563 kg./ha in 1998-99. Productivity of Rubber in India is the highest among major rubber producing countries.

Coconut: The Coconut Development Board is implementing various programmes with an outlay of Rs. 105.00 crores during 9th Plan, which *inter-alia*, include Production and distribution of quality planting material; Area expansion; Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement; Control of leaf eating caterpillars; and promotion of product diversification and by-product utilisation. The productivity of coconut in the country has increased from 5401 nuts / ha. in 1987-88 to 6898 nut/ha. in 1997-98. India ranks first in production and productivity of coconut in the world.

Co-operative movement in North-Eastern Region

3554. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) has the backwardness of N.E. region in Co-operative movement has been kept in view in drawing up the central sector schemes; and

(b) if so, whether there is any centrally sponsored schemes exclusively for North-East Regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation for cooperative, processing, marketing, storage programmes for cooperatively least developed States is being implemented through the NCDC.

(ii) 10 percent allocation of funds of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation have been earmarked for the North Eastern States under all schemes.

(iii) An exclusive scheme of Technology Mission for the development of Horticulture in the NE States including Sikkim is also being contemplated.

Implementation of Central Schemes

3555. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Co-operation Division is implementing