

Johal Committee recommendations on Agricultural Diversification in Punjab

3257. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) which other crops can be planned for agricultural diversification in Punjab in lieu of the present wheat paddy rotation;

(b) whether sugarcane could be one of the crops in such a diversification scheme;

(c) whether Government will implement Johal Committee recommendations for diversification of crops in Punjab;

(d) how many licences are to be issued in Punjab for processing to increase sugarcane production;

(e) how many applications for private or Government sugar mills have been received for grant of licences for sugar mills during the last three years;

(f) how many of them have been cleared, number of applications rejected and the number of those which are still pending; and

(g) the reasons for these pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM):

(a) The oilseed crops, Maize, Soyabean, Vegetables, Pulses and Sugarcane are some of the crops for diversification of crops in Punjab.

(b) yes, Sir. To a limited extent.

(c) State Government is making efforts for diversification of crops in Punjab.

(d) to (g) During last 3 sugar years i.e. 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 (October—September), 17 proposals were received; 6 in Public Sector, 7 in Corporate Sector and 4 in Private Sector by Ministry of Food through the Department of Industrial Development, Ministry of Industry for setting up of new sugar factories in Punjab state. All these applications have been scrutinised by the Screening Committee in the Ministry of Food. Screening Committee did not recommend grant of letter of intent / licence to any interpreneur for want of sufficient

sugarcane in Punjab. According to Ministry of Food, there is no scope to set up any new sugar mill in Punjab state at present, keeping in view the present level of sugarcane production in the state.

Boosting Tobacco Cultivation

3258. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have noted the news item in the Business Section of Pioneer dated 23rd July, 1994 captioned "Tax cut boosts sales of cheap cigarettes";

(b) whether his Ministry has conducted any examination of the expected boost this state of affairs will give to tobacco cultivation;

(c) if so, what will be the measures taken by his Ministry to advise and assist farmers to raise tobacco production; and

(d) details of steps proposed by his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Central Assistance to Poultry Development Projects

3259. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States where poultry development projects have been launched with central assistance;

(b) whether Government have reviewed the performance of these States in poultry development;

(c) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(d) whether any such projects have been launched in Orissa; and

(e) if so, the steps taken for poultry development in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI

ARVIND NETAM): (a) This Ministry has not provided financial assistance for Poultry development projects to State Government during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Liberalisation in Agriculture

3260. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether liberalised economy which is a major plank of reforms introduced by Government has also been introduced to the agriculture related commodities for processing;

(b) what is the justification of debarring the farmers from processing their sugarcane for sugar;

(c) whether Government will allow farmers to process their sugarcane without any licence; and

(d) if so, by when; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The Government have taken various steps to promote food processing industries, which inter-alia include declaration of most food processing industries as high priority, delicensing of all good processing industries, excepting for distillation and brewing of alcoholic beverages and those items reserved for Small Scale Sector, automatic approval of Foreign Equity upto 51% in high priority areas and technology agreements, permitting Foreign / Non-Resident Indian investments, providing fiscal reliefs, etc.

(b) to (d) In so far as processing of sugarcane is concerned, it is undertaken by the sugar factories for manufacture of vacuum pan sugar. However, sugar factories have to take a licence under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 for setting up a sugar factory. As regards processing of cane for gur and khandsari, these are controlled by various State Governments / Union Territories under their own orders.

Production of Jute in Orissa

3261. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will

the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of jute in Orissa during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the steps taken to increase the production of jute in that State;

(c) the Schemes drawn up therefor;

(d) the funds allocated to Orissa therefor; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The total jute production during the last three years is given below:

Year	Production in '000 bales of 180 Kg. each.
1991-92	380.8
1992-93	272.9
1993-94	184.7

(b) and (c) Government of India have launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Special Jute Development Programme in important jute growing States including Orissa to increase the production and improve the quality of jute fibres. Under the Scheme financial assistance is provided for distribution of quality seeds, farm implements, essential nutrients and fungal culture. Financial assistance is also provided for foliar spraying, excavation of kutchha / pucca retting tanks and organising technology demonstration and farmers training.

(d) and (e) Government of India have allocated / sanctioned funds to Orissa State during the last three years for the implementation of various programmes under the scheme as follows:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Amount allocated / sanctioned by Govt. of India
1992-93	26.101
1993-94	36.695
1994-95	37.295