

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 6th December, 1991/15
Agrahayana, 1913 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Shortage of Seeds

*221. SHRI CHIMANBHAI
MEHTA:†
SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of cotton, oil and vegetable seeds in the country; and

(b) if so, what step Government contemplate to ensure availability of these seeds to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) There is shortage of certain categories of oilseeds and vegetable seeds but there is no shortage of cotton seed.

(b) There are Centrally Sponsored Schemes aimed at increasing the production of seed of cotton, oilseeds and vegetables and production and distribution of seed is an integral component of these Schemes.

Stage wise production of seed is being organised by different agencies. Breeder seed is produced with the help of ICAR system. Foundation and certified seed is produce by National Seed Corporation (NSC) State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI),

†The question was actually asked on the floor to the House by Shri Chimanbhai Mehta.

State Seed Corporations (SSCs), State Department of Agriculture and other Government Agencies as well as by private Seed Industry.

Seed Review Meetings for Kharif and Rabi for general crops as well as vegetable crops are held with State Governments, Union Territory Administration and other agencies involved in seed production and distribution in order to assess the position of requirement and availability of seed in the country. In these Conferences attempts are made to help deficient States get their requirement from other States or from the national seed producing agencies. States are advised to place advance firm indents with NSC and SFCI to ensure sufficient availability of seed of the categories where they expect shortages.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, my supplementary question (a) is when they are holding seed review meetings regularly, in that case, whether they identified the shortage of certain categories of oilseeds and vegetables about which they have made admissions in the answer. In the review meetings if you have assessed that there was going to be a shortage of oilseeds and vegetable seeds, my relevant question would be what you did for that, to meet the shortage; whether the option of import of seed was open to you or not; and if you did not do it what the area coverage was of the cultivation of this crop that suffered due to the lack of these particular seeds.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there was shortage only in these oil seeds, and that too, much only in groundnut. We had visualised it. We have been taking steps. Regarding other oilseeds like sunflower, we have this project for seed production with the World Bank assistance also. We have this under OGL. So, last year also we imported the hybrid quality sunflower seeds, and

this year also we have just ordered that. It was a bit less, but we are making efforts so that in future every care is taken because the basic input for a good crop is quality seed. With out that everything becomes irrelevant. I would like to assure the Members that we are giving the highest importance to it. Now I am trying to restructure the National Seeds Corporation also because that needs restructuring. It is rather overburdened, and it has gone into losses also. But after the implementation of the schemes for the State Farms Seeds Corporations this becomes rather neglected. So, we are trying to restructure this.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: In a way it is good that the basic agency, the National Seeds Corporation, is being restructured because there was a lacuna there and the Minister has rightly found it out. Whether it was over-burdened or there was some other lacuna it is for him to go in detail and find out. The point relevant here is the area covered by these crops. You have mentioned sun-flower seeds and I was talking about the vegetable seeds. They are also in shortage. So, my point is what was the cultivable area that suffered due to shortage of seeds and what was the commensurate damage that was done in spite of your regular meetings. In spite of that regular feature you could not assess the import quantum. You are importing something. That is good because seed is not a luxury item, but my point is you could not import to the extent required. Therefore, you kindly examine how and where you failed and how the farmers suffered and the country suffered because the edible oil is in short supply.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: The farmers improvise on that. It was regarding the supply from the National Seeds Corporation or the State Seeds Corporation. Here, you see the supply of groundnut oil was about minus 47 quintals. The farmers don't have to

rely on this. They have other friends and other neighbours also. So, they do improvise for that. But what is needed is to provide them with good quality seeds so that the crop is good. I do realise that this section of the programme has to be strengthened.

SHRI SOM PAL: It is a matter of satisfaction for me that our learned agriculturist Agriculture Minister has confessed that there is a shortage and he is aware of the problem, but I very strongly controvert his statement that there is no shortage of cotton seeds. He belongs to an area which is in North India and till date there is no good quality hybrid cotton seed available to suit the agro-climatic conditions of this region. He being a cotton grower himself must be knowing that. So, I would like to know what steps he is contemplating to evolve or to import good quality hybrid cotton seeds suitable for the conditions obtaining in the North. That is part (a) of my question.

श्री सभापति : अब ये बम करना पड़ेगा क्योंकि मंडे से कम-से-कम 7-8 लोगों को तो मोका देना पड़ेगा ।

SHRI SOM PAL: Right, Sir. It is a very important thing... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You agree that preface has to be curtailed. You come to the point.

SHRI SOM PAL: But, Sir, I am not prefacing. I am making a direct question.

Part (b) of my question is that the details placed here spell out the measures in terms of production. That is a long-term strategy to meet the shortage. I know that there is an acute shortage of high-yielding varieties of vegetable-seeds and oil-seeds, particularly the sun-flower seeds and the Minister has already accepted it. Of course, some imports have been effected during the last few years to meet

the shortage, but that has not been done fully. That also he agrees. My point is why we are not importing full quantities to bridge the gap in the short-run when that could be the only answer. That is what I want to know from the hon. Minister.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I would like to say to the hon. Member that as far as the hybrid cottonseeds are concerned I am as much concerned as he is, because I also grow some cotton. We have been trying to have that hybrid quality in the northern region, but so far we have not succeeded in it. It is a question for our researchers and scientists to evolve a quality which suits us. It has been successful in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh but not in the North. We have tried many ways to improve the quality of the seed. We have tried many quality seeds which have been provided so far but I myself had not been satisfied with them. So it is a question of ongoing research. It is a quest which has to be met by a constant review and research on the seeds. I hope that my scientists will come to that level. They are working on it.

Second, about sunflower, we did import it last year. It has practically fulfilled the needs. This year also when I saw that the need was there and when I saw the cyclone-affected areas in the South — Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, I thought that this was a good time and an opportunity to use this non season or rather much of the water for growing oilseeds which the country is so much in need of, I have already allowed the import of sunflower seeds so that we could do it. These hybrid seeds our farmers require very much.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, my difficulty is that I have to use two aspects one for the glaring lights and the other for reading in this House.

Anyway, Mr. Jakhari who gave the reply is a knowledgeable person. The availability of seeds is a small thing

to me. The quality of seeds supplied is totally deteriorating day by day. I have got great respect for our scientists. They are doing a good job. But You know that the quality of the seeds is going down, thereby the final products coming out are of a quality which is not proper and cannot be exported.

For your own information, in Punjab the quality of F32 cotton seed which is being produced there, has gone down so much that Pakistan is ahead of us. The F32 cotton seed quality of that area analogous to Punjab is bad. The corruption involved in this at the State level is tremendous. As Agriculture Minister you might have received many complaints from the farmers in this regard. The crop does not grow because the quality of seeds has deteriorated. The farmers purchasing the seeds take it to the field and finds that the crop is not proper. It is either contaminated or not grown. The quality has been deteriorating. So is the case with the oilseeds. Previously the oil content in the oilseed was 49 per cent. Now it has come down to 35 per cent. What is the research effort your Ministry is doing in this regard? So is the case with the cereals also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put your question.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I am coming to that the basic point is availability of quality seeds. There should be a serious research effort to develop good seeds by our scientists; otherwise our production will go down ultimately. What steps are you taking?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I fully agree with the hon. Member that the quality of seeds is an imperative thing. It is the basic input without which nothing can be achieved. For that purpose, we have started a new scheme, namely, the National Seeds Projects—III. It was launched in March, 1990 at a total cost of Rs. 286 crores with a World Bank assistance of dollar 150 million. It was launched

to contribute towards further development and strengthening the seeds sector in India. Based on the experience laid under NSP-I and NSP-II, it has the main task of restructuring the public sector seeds corporations with NSC, FCI and SCs in order to enable them to function as viable and efficient units of seeds production and distribution.

It has also the provision to provide facilities for growth of private seed industry through adequate institutional finance. The project beneficiaries are NSC, FCI and SSCs. The eleven participant states are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal. Thirty-two institutions under the ICAR....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it long statement?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I am giving the full details. What I am trying to do under this is restructuring of seed-producing centres.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Are you satisfied?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: That is what it is. We are trying to sort of strengthen the bases.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Are you satisfied? If you are satisfied, then I am satisfied.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I have to be satisfied when the seeds are good. (Interruptions). That is the only thing. If the results are good, if the yields are good, then I am satisfied.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I belong to your community. If you are satisfied, I am satisfied. बाकी बात आप छोड़ दो... (व्यवधान)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I will value your sincere guidance and advice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He asked about the cottonseeds in the Punjab, in the two Punjab, the East Punjab and the West Punjab. (Interruptions)...

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: We have.... (Interruptions).

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Even in Vidarbha and Marathwada, it has gone down. (Interruptions).

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: We have to streamline the seed business. We have to produce good seeds if we want to make a headway and also compete in the world.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you agree that ours is inferior?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: How can he? He is the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has agreed. He is a good Minister.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: We should say what is right. We should not be afraid of saying the truth. We should admit our mistakes. What is the problem? (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mohammed Amin.

श्री मोहम्मद अमीन : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके जरिये वजीरे मोहतरम से यह मालूम करना चाहता हूँ सन् 1990 में यानी पिछले साल हमारे मुल्क में अनाज की कुल पैदावार कितनी हुई थी और उसमें गेहूँ कितना था और चावल कितना था।

श्री वल्लभ जखड़ : यह दोबारा सवाल कर देंगे तो मैं उसका जवाब भी दिलवा दूंगा।

श्री सभापति : यह सवाल तो सीड पर है।

श्री सुरन्द्र सिंह : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने माना कि वह ऑयल सीड पर और बेजिटेबल सीड पर जो पैदावार

है, इससे वह खुद भी संतुष्ट नहीं हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदय से आपके जरिये यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या मंत्री जी की नोटिस में यह बात है कि हिंदुस्तान में ऑयल सीड्स ज्यादातर प्राइवेट कम्पनीज तैयार करती हैं और अगर यह एरिया को मद्दे नजर रखें तो यू०एस०ए० चायना और ब्राजील के मुकाबले हिन्दुस्तान उनसे ज्यादा एरिया ऑयल सीड्स के लिये रिजर्व रखता है और अभी ग्राउंड नट के बारे में मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि तमाम संसार का 39.3 परसेंट जो एरिया है वह हिंदुस्तान ग्राउंड नट के लिये इस्तेमाल करता है और ग्राथ रेट प्रोडक्शन क्या है—826 किलो प्रति हेक्टेयर और जो विश्व का एवरेज है वह 1111 किलो प्रति हेक्टेयर है। मैं मंत्री महोदय की सूचना के लिये एक और बात कहना चाहूंगा कि जहां तक दूसरी फसलों के ग्राथ रेट का सवाल है, चावल में 1.61 परसेंट परएनम और एरिया किताब बढा केवल .80 परसेंट। इसी तरह से गेहूं में ग्राथ रेट 3.20 परसेंट और एरिया 2.67% है। सभापति महोदय, क्या मंत्री जी बतावेंगे कि ग्राउंडनट सीड्स में एरिया की जो ग्राथ रेट थी वह 1.22 थी, जबकि प्रोडक्टिविटी केवल .53 प्रतिशत थी। तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या इन सब चीजों को मद्दे नजर रखते हुये सरकार एग्रीकल्चरल साइंटिस्ट के जरिये या ऑयल सीड्स कार्पोरेशन के माध्यम से कोई उन्नत किस्म का बीज तैयार करवायेगी, क्योंकि प्राइवेट कम्पनी मुंह सांगी कीमत लेती हैं और अगर उस वक्त तक सरकार उन्नत किस्म के कोई बीज तैयार करा सके तो उसको प्रोत्साहन देने के लिये क्या सरकार सब्सडी देगी?

श्री बलराम जाखड़: माननीय सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य ने जो कहा है, उसके विषय में मुझे इतना ही कहना है कि बाहर के मुल्कों से यदि हम अपनी तुलना करें तो फिर सिचाई के साधनों की भी तुलना करनी पड़ेगी। हमारे पास केवल 30 प्रतिशत भूमि ऐसी है जो सिंचित है और जो तिलहन

खेती हमारे यहां होती है वह ज्यादातर वर्षा पर आधारित है। इस बार बहुत बढ़िया फसल थी हमारी, इतनी सुंदर लगी हुई थी, अगर अगस्त और सितंबर के शुरू में बरसात आ जाती तो सारा काम पूरा हो जाता लेकिन यह वर्षा पर आधारित है, इसलिये काम गड़बड़ हो गया। बाहर के मुल्कों में वर्षा अच्छी होती है, उनके पास पानी ज्यादा है, इसलिए उनका उत्पादन भी अधिक है।

महोदय, ऐसी बात नहीं है कि हमने तरकीब नहीं की है। हमने 10.7 मिलियन टन से लेकर 19 मिलियन टन तक पैदावार बढ़ाई है तिलहन की। यह बात भी नहीं है कि हमारे पास अच्छी किस्म के बीज उपलब्ध नहीं हैं लेकिन सारे साधन जुटाने से ही बात बन सकती है। दोनों हाथों से ही ताली बजती है। तो अब सवाल इतना है कि हम पानी का बंदोबस्त कैसे करें। जहां कम पानी है, उसका उत्पादन के लिए अधिक से अधिक उपयोग कैसे करें। इसके लिए हम सिचाई के नये तरीकों का उपयोग करना चाहते हैं जिससे कि यह कमी पूरी हो सके। प्राइवेट कम्पनीज से बात तो करनी पड़ेगी। आप उनको नहीं कह सकते कि न करें क्योंकि उसी से काम बनेगा। सारे संसार में ऐसा होता है, हमारे यहां भी ऐसा होता है। नेशनल सीड कार्पोरेशन के माध्यम से हमने गेहूं, चने और राईस के बीज काफी मात्रा में सप्लाई किए और जो छोटी फसलें थीं ऐसे वाली, वह इन लोगों ने प्राइवेट में पैदा कीं। हम देखेंगे कि नेशनल सीड प्रोजेक्ट में इन कार्पोरेट फसलों वाले बीजों का भी उत्पादन बढ़ाया जाए।

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there are any companies in the private sector at present which have foreign collaborations for the manufacture of seeds in this particular sector. Secondly, in keeping with the present policy of the Government, are you going to allow more foreign collaborations in the private sector? Will you also consider gran-

ting patent rights to seed manufacturers in this and any other sectors?

श्री बलराम जाखड़: पेटेंट के मुताबिक तो पालिसी के, नीति के आधार पर ही मैं कह पाऊंगा लेकिन दूसरी बात जो है, उसके लिए हमने ओ.जी.एल. में रखा हुआ है। अच्छे बीज हैं लेकिन क्वालिटी कंट्रोल हमने रखा हुआ है। बीज आता है तो उसको क्वरेंटाईन करते हैं। मान लीजिए बीज आ जाए, पोषा भी बन जाए लेकिन तबाह न हो इसलिए उसको क्वरेंटाईन करते हैं।

श्री यशवन्त सिन्हा: पालिसी की बात दूसरी है लेकिन मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आज के दिन तक आपके पास फॉरेन कोलोबोरेशन के साथ बीज बनाने के लिए कितनी कंपनियाँ हैं?

श्री बलराम जाखड़: यह मैं आपको इतिहास दे दूंगा। हमारे पास कुछ कंपनियाँ हैं जो बीज भी भेजती हैं, पोषे भी भेजती हैं।
Twenty companies have foreign collaborations at this time.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Do any of them have patent rights for the seeds that they are manufacturing?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I can tell you that after ascertaining the facts because it is not to my knowledge so far.

श्री सुपेन्द्र सिंह मान: इसी सवाल से जुड़ी हुई एक बात जो देश के लिए समस्या बनी हुई है वह यह है कि बाहर से सीड स्मगल हो रहे हैं।

श्री समापति: एक सवाल में 30 मिनट हो गए, आप चाहें तो फिर एक ही सवाल रखा जाएगा।

†This question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ranjit Singh.

Setting up of a Housing Board for Delhi

*222. SHRI RANJIT SINGH:†
DR. JINENDRA KUMAR
JAIN:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up a new Housing Board and transfer to it the work regarding construction of residential units presently being done by Delhi Development Authority and also to cover the shortfall in the construction of residential units within a specified time limit; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and by when it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The matter is under active consideration. A decision will be taken very early after reconciling all administrative matters.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister has replied that the Government is going to take a decision and even the Lt. Governor of Delhi has announced that they are going to propose a new Housing Board scheme. My question is, the Delhi Development Authority has constructed 8,800 houses in the last five years against a promised figure of 25,000 houses. The number of registrants is increasing every year. The backlog figures are rising rapidly and scores of Group Housing Societies are still waiting to get a clearance from the DDA. The number of those people who have registered themselves with the DDA is rising at an alarming rate. According to figures available, there are 1,56,524 registrants in various categories all over the capital. In Rohini itself, there are 41,176 people on the waiting list. According to the people who have been handed out the