

[18 December, 2001] RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government is already pursuing a policy to promote generation of income and employment in villages for the benefit of rural communities including small farmers. In pursuance to this objective, various Central and Centrally Sponsored Scheme are being implemented through various implementing agencies/departments and through the State Governments for development of Agriculture, Horticulture, Aquaculture, Animal Husbandary, Poultry, Apiculture, Sericulture, Cottage and Small Scale Industries and other diverse economic activities.

Food to Starving Families

2738. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after Orissa, 11 persons have died in Udaipur district (Rajasthan) from starvation/malnutrition, as alleged by a non-Government organisation;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide food to the starving families throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Diminishing Trend in Rayda Production

2739. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the findings of a survey conducted by Mustard Research and Promotion Consortium, regarding the diminishing trend in Rayda Production by the Cultivators;

(b) what has been the production of Rayda during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to import of other edible oils, the Rayda crushing mills are on the verge of closure; and

(d) if so, how Government propose to save Rayda mills and Rayda growers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The production of Rapeseed & Mustard (Rayda) remained fluctuating depending upon the behaviour of monsoon. The decline in the production of Rayda (Rapeseed-Mustard) during last two years has been mainly due to drought like conditions prevailing in the major mustard growing States.

The total production of Rayda (Rapeseed-Mustard) during the last 3 years is given below:—

Year	In 000 tonnes Production
1998-99	5663.9
1999-2000	5958.2
2000-2001	4090.0 (Advance estimates)

(c) and (d) There has been a huge import of edible oil due to low import duty. This also led to fall in the prices of indigenous oilseeds including Rayda (Rapeseed-Mustard). As per the information available, the capacity utilization of the oil processing mills including solvent units has been around 35-40%.

In order to save the Rayda (Rapeseed-Mustard) growers and the industries, a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in implementation in various States of the country for increasing the production of oilseeds including Rayda (Rapeseed-Mustard). Under the programme financial assistance by way of subsidy to the farmers is provided for various inputs in order to motivate them to take up the cultivation of oilseeds including Rayda (Rapeseed-Mustard) on a large scale. The import duty on Rapeseed-

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Mustard oil has also been increased to the bound rate of 75% with effect from the 1st March, 2001.

Utilization of Financial Assistance for Earthquake by Gujarat

2740. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the utilization of financial assistance of Rs. 121223.51 lakh given to the Gujarat Government, for relief and rehabilitation in earthquake affected areas of the State;

(b) whether the amount of Rs. 127.10 crores from CRF and an amount of Rs. 1467.37 crores from NCCF, released to State, has been utilized;

(c) whether the Prime Minister has allocated a sum of Rupees 100 crores for the construction and repair of educational institutions affected by earthquake in Gujarat; and

(d) if so, what is the progress made to utilize the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

CBI Investigation of ICAR Corruption Cases

2741. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
SHRI R.N. ARYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about fifteen Members of Parliament wrote to the Prime Minister during July-November, 2001, regarding slow progress in CBI investigation of ICAR corruption cases;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether they had also stated that an ICAR scientist had been