

ved total capacity in any of the steel plants, be it the Bhilai Steel Plant or any other plant. And if it is so, I would like to know when are we going to achieve the total installed capacity in the steel plants?

THAKUR JAGATPAL SINGH: It has already been replied.

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: If the hon. Member wants to know about our demand and availability of steel, I may tell the House that in 1989-90, total demand will be 14.1 million tonnes and availability will be 13.9 million tonnes; In 1990-91 the total demand will be 15 million tonnes and availability will be 15.4 million tonnes, which means 0.4 million tonnes of steel will be surplus. In 1994-95, the total demand will be 19.3 million tonnes and availability will be 20.2 million tonnes. By the turn of the century the total demand will be around 26 million tonnes and availability will be 21.4 million tonnes. We are planning not only to become self-sufficient, but also to become exporters in steel, especially special types of steel. We are planning that strategy. (Interruptions).

*127. [The questioner (Shri H. Hanumanthappa) was absent. For answer vide col. 34 infra].

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 128.

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: Nothing should go on record. We have mentioned the name of a foreign country. It is not due to the Soviet Union that the cost of steel...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have gone over to Q.No. 128

Cultivation of oil palm

*128. **DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the main recommendations of the Experts' Group on oil palm cultivation and the follow-up action taken thereon, the funds earmarked and disbursed accordingly to various States so far; and

(b) whether any know-how has been sought from Malaysia, the largest grower of the kind, and the experience gained in oil palm cultivation in Kerala during the past 20 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The main recommendations of the Working Group on Potentialities of Oil palm cultivation are given in the attached statement (See below). Follow up action on the recommendations of the Working Group has been initiated and proposals for allotment of funds have been formulated.

(b) Know-how for extending oilpalm cultivation in India has not been sought from Malaysia. Commercial plantings in Kerala have given satisfactory performance and reasonable yields of 2.5-3.0 M.T. of oil/ha.

Statement

(i) The research centre of the Central Plantation Crop Research Institute at Palode under ICAR may be raised to the status of a National Research Centre for Oilpalm.

(ii) The Working Group has identified about 5.75 lakh ha. of land suitable for oilpalm cultivation in States namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal. The Group has suggested a strategy for covering 2.5 lakh ha. of area under oilpalm cultivation by 2000 A.D.

(iii) The present production of tenera hybrid seeds is about 4 lakh which is sufficient to cover an area of 2,000 ha. per annum. To meet requirement of planting material, import of elite seeds has to be made. Three seed-gardens each with 20 ha. area may be established in three States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to meet the future requirements of seeds in the country.

(iv) Two types of units namely, (i) large-scale modern processing unit with a capacity for 5-30 tonnes FB/hr to suit plantations covering 1,000-5,000 ha. with

facilities for refining or (ii) small-scale processing unit with indigenous equipment with a capacity of one tonne FFB/hr. depending upon situations and the size of the plantations, can be adopted.

(v) Incentives and credit facilities for the development of oilpalm may be provided.

(vi) Three types of organizational structures are recommended namely, Corporate or company sector like Oil Palm India Ltd. and Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Ltd. Co-operative sector similar to NDB of India and Federal Land Development Authority of Malaysia and Private Public sector like sugar factories.

(vii) A Central Apex Body, namely, National Oilpalm Development Board exclusively for oilpalm development with full powers and adequate finance is recommended to promote oilpalm cultivation in India

(viii) Training in India and abroad is recommended for all those associated with oilpalm production, processing, research and development.

(ix) Need for organizing large-scale demonstration is recommended for motivating the farmers.

(x) Foreign consultancy in specific areas of oilpalm production and processing for a limited period, till adequate trained manpower becomes available, is recommended.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: The hon. Minister in his statement has mentioned about the demonstration plants. The survey team appointed by the Government of India has suggested taking up demonstration oilpalm plantation in 42,000 hectares in Krishna and Godavari command areas of Andhra Pradesh. The project report was submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh as long back as 23rd November, 1987, but no decision has yet been taken in this regard for the last one year. It is learnt that an inter-Ministerial steering committee has been appointed to scrutinise such demonstration projects from Andhra Pra-

desh, Maharashtra and Karnataka. This steering committee has now suggested reduction of the area from 2,000 hectares to 1,000 hectares. I would like to know whether it is a fact or not. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has slashed down its project and also its expenditure from Rs. 871 lakhs to Rs. 600 lakhs. May I know from the Minister what steps are being taken by the Government of India to execute these projects?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Sir, after the suggestion and the report submitted by the Expert Group, steps have been taken to assist the projects.

With regard to the research centre it has already been proposed to the FAO, UNDP and I think the project is under processing.

The States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka and other States have been asked to convey their comments on the Working Groups and decide the area of 5.7 lakh hectares of land suitable for oilpalm cultivation.

As regards the DPT project for the State of Andhra Pradesh, it has already been sanctioned. The area is 1000 hectares and the amount is Rs. 580 lakhs for five years.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Sir, for the production of oilpalm to reach the productive stage, long gestation period will be there. As a result of this, farmers do not get any income for 4-5 years. May I know from the Minister whether there is any proposal under the Government's consideration to provide the farmer some subsidy to sustain himself for 4-5 years? As you know, Sir, we are already importing huge quantities of edible oils from other countries spending nearly about Rs. 800—1000 crores per annum. So to save the foreign exchange as well as to enhance the production of edible oils in this country, what steps are being taken to encourage the farmers to divert from other crops to oilpalm cultivation?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Sir, it is true that the gestation period for oilpalm cultivation is five years. During that period sufficient subsidy is proposed

to be provided to the farmers. The Working Group has already recommended a subsidy to cover 50 per cent of the cost of the plantation, maintenance and up to the bearing stage—tree crop insurance to cover the risk—facilities for providing long-term and short-term loans for building up infrastructural facilities and to meet the cultivation charges. The farmers during that period of five years can raise winter crops also and they can have so many other varieties of crops. This has also been covered by the Group.

We have already provided a sum of Rs. 800 crores during the Seventh Plan period for assisting the Oil-palm India Ltd., which is a joint venture between the Government of India and the Government of Kerala with equity participation. Besides this, during the next annual plan we are also proposing to raise sufficient funds so that this oilpalm cultivation may grow up. In this connection we are assisting Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Ltd. to come up with plantation.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the climate of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is suitable for oilpalm cultivation. The Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands had requested the Central Government to allow them to grow oilpalm trees in his area but the Forest Department is not giving them permission to grow these trees. The Lt. Governor has pointed out that growing of oilpalm trees will help in the development of the economy of the Islands. May I know from the Minister whether he will impress upon the Forest Department to give permission for growing oilpalm trees in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Sir, three types of organisational structures have already been suggested and amongst them is the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Ltd. They are also growing trees in an area of more than 1000 hectares.

So far as Ministry of Agriculture is concerned, we have already accepted their

proposal and assisted them but the Forest Department is looking into this aspect from their environmental point of view. They will take a view on this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Telecast of News in Telugu from Delhi Doordarshan

*121. **SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to telecast National News from Delhi Doordarshan in Telugu language; if so, the details thereof;

(b) by when the Channel II Transmission would commence from Hyderabad Doordarshan Kendra; and

(c) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal for introduction of Second Channel at Doordarshan Kendra, Hyderabad.

(c) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation of flood-affected people in Delhi

*123. **SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :**

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken in last 3 years to prevent damage due to floods in Delhi;

(b) the number of families that had to be shifted due to the recent floods in Delhi;