

ers. On the basis of this study it was recommended that the State Government should tone up the administrative machinery and bring about close coordination between Inspector of Mica Accounts, District Mining Officer and Inspector of Mica Force. This and certain other relevant recommendations were communicated to the Government of Bihar for implementation.

The State Governments are responsible for detection as well as prevention of such illicit mining and they have been requested to ensure that illicit mining is curbed by measures such as tightening of inspection of Mica mines and verification of production figures. This matter has also been reviewed from time to time in meetings with the Secretaries of State Governments for Mining and Geology and their attention has been drawn to the need to control illicit mining of Mica.

The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 has been amended in 1986 to make illegal mining a cognisable offence and increasing the punishment from 1 year imprisonment or fine exceeding upto Rs. 5000/- or both into punishment for 2 years or with fine upto Rs. 10,000/- or with both.

In July, 1987, a Committee has also been constituted consisting of Controller-General, Indian Bureau of Mines and representatives of the States of Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra to consider difficulties experienced in checking possession and transportation of illegally mined minerals and for suggesting suitable measures to effectively check possession and transportation of illegally mined minerals.

Estimates of loss of revenue to the State Government on account of alleged illicit mining of Mica are not available.

Long-term schemes to prevent droughts

*105. SHRI KALPNATH RAI:
SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any long-term schemes have been drawn up to prevent the occurrence of droughts in future in the drought-prone areas;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether the assistance of scientific organisations has been enlisted to tackle the occurrence of drought with the technical 'know-how'?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) to (c) Long-term Schemes to prevent the occurrence of drought: Earlier a Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) was launched to:—

(i) Promote productivity in drylands on the basis of soil and water conservation coupled with suitable cropping,

(ii) developing water resources for their productive use,

(iii) bringing back ecological balance by afforestation,

(iv) develop livestock and,

(v) develop silvi-pastoral and horticultural systems besides other diversified activities like sericulture and fisheries for generating rural employment. This programme is being implemented in 615 blocks in 90 districts of 13 States.

Another programme on similar lines is the Desert Development Programme (DDP) mainly for dry deserts of West Rajasthan and cold deserts of Jammu & Kashmir.

In order to harvest best yields in good years and mitigate the effects of drought in below normal rainfall years, several programmes are in operation. They are:—

(i) National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Agriculture — a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 99 districts in 16 States.

(ii) World Bank funded Rainfed Farming Project in four States (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh).

(iii) World Bank funded Kandi Watershed and Area Development Project in Punjab.

In order to provide rural employment for better purchasing power and for creating durable assets to alleviate the problems of drought, other programmes have been taken up. They are:—

(i) Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP).

(ii) National Rural Employment Programme (NREP).

(iii) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP).

Further to improve the productivity of rainfed areas and to bring back ecological balance other programmes have been taken up. They are:—

(i) Soil Conservation in the Catchment Areas of the River Valley Projects.

(ii) Ravine Reclamation in Dacoity Prone Areas of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

(iii) Control of Shifting Cultivation in Northern States and in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.

(iv) World Bank funded Himalayan Watershed Management Project in Uttar Pradesh.

(v) Watershed Development under State Sector alongwith the Soil Conservation Programme.

Assistance of Scientific Organisations: That improved cropping systems matching with the assured moisture availability periods as calculated from the rainfall data would provide insulation against crop failures due to moisture stress to a great extent has been proved by the ICAR system through their All-India Coordinated Research Project for Dryland Agriculture (AICRPDA) and the Central Research Institute for Dryland Agricultural (CRIDA) and the International Crop Research Institute for semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

Coupled with the on-farm soil and water conservation practices developed by the ICAR's Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute (CSWCR & TI), these techniques have been used in the various schemes formulated by the Government of India.

Further, the alternate crop strategies and the improved cropping systems with suitable crop varieties developed by the above organisations are in use in the systems developed for Area Development Programmes on Watershed Basis in Rainfed areas which will to a great extent mitigate the negative impact of droughts on the rural population.

Strategy to control the prices of Vanaspati and Vegetable Oils

*106. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the composite strategy employed to bring down the prices of vanaspati and edible vegetable oils;

(b) the effect of selective credit controls on the market prices;

(c) the details of import of oilseeds and oil during the past and the next six months—month-wise; and

(d) the allocation of imported oil to vanaspati units during the past and the coming six months?