

Representations of farmers in the Bureau of Agricultural Prices

1162. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister for Agriculture has recently announced that Government propose to increase farmers' representation in the Bureau of Agricultural prices; and

(b) if so, by when the above decision is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) A proposal to restructure the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices with, *inter alia*, increased farmer's representation is under the consideration of the Government.

Clearance to Polavaram Project

1163. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state by when the Polavaram Project in Andhra Pradesh is likely to be cleared by Government?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): Polavaram is a multi-purpose project estimated to cost around Rs. 1300 crores. It envisages irrigation, hydel-power generation, navigation and water supply to Vizag Steel Plant. It also involves inter-State issues with Madhya Pradesh and Orissa.

The project report is under various stages of technical examination in Central Water Commission, Central Electricity Authority and other concerned Departments of the Government of India. Clarifications are awaited from the State Government on various points viz., integrated working tables, sedimentation studies, navigation and inter-State aspects. Clearance from environmental angle

and under Forest Conservation Act are also required. The clearance of the project would be considered after the above issues are resolved.

Groundnut Production

1164. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite huge expenditure on Research and Development under CLUSA or CIDA projects, productivity of groundnuts has not improved but actually declined;

(b) whether CLUSA or CIDA have submitted their reports/evaluation reports and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these reports have been sent to all the concerned States for implementation; and

(d) whether Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have fared better than Gujarat which received maximum CLUSA/CIDA aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The National Dairy Development Board is implementing Oilseeds Development Projects through State Level Growers Cooperative Federation in seven States with the assistance from the Cooperative League of USA (CLUSA) and Cooperative Union of Canada (CUC) through Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The productivity of groundnut in the project States is given in the enclosed statement. (See below). The programmes have helped in promoting the productivity of the groundnut. However, there have been fluctuation in the productivity of the groundnut because of variations in seasonal conditions.

(b) The NDDB Vegetable Oil Project started in July 1979 was first evaluated in April 1981 by a CLUSA/USAID/NDDB. Further in June 1983 a joint evaluation team comprising representatives of Government of

India/CLUSA/USAID/NDDB evaluated the project. The main recommendations made by the Team are as under:

1. Procedure for licensing of processing facilities to be streamlined.

2. Centralised market analysis and forecasting functions to be developed.

3. The project strategy is to stabilise yield at a moderate level in rainfed areas.

4. Society Secretaries be given adequate training to perform their functions.

5. Where it is necessary to staff agricultural positions with non-agricultural candidates, intensive and formal training in agricultural subjects be arranged for them.

6. There must be a firm commitment on the part of the State Government and the NDDB to place well qualified people in the upper level management position of the federations and to keep these people to their positions at least three to four years.

7. State Federations be divided into geographical regions and the

processing plants Managers be given semi-autonomous jurisdiction within their area.

8. The movement of raw material or finished products across regions be decided at federations's headquarters.

9. Larger plants be established in irrigated areas where production procurement and optimal capacity utilisation are more certain.

10. The State federations should gradually reduce the use of NDDB procurement support and begin utilising to the extent possible the commercial vehicles for procurement.

11. CIDA Project was evaluated in March, 1986 and necessary steps are taken to improve the production.

(c) Based on the above recommendations, the necessary steps have been taken to assist the participating States in increasing their production.

(d) Madhya Pradesh is not covering the groundnut crop in the NDDB's programme. It may, however, be seen from Annexure that Andhra Pradesh has fared slightly better than Gujarat during the last three years which may be attributed to the favourable weather conditions.

Statement

Productivity of Groundnuts crops in different States taken up for Development under NDDB's Oilseeds and Vegetable Oil Project during the last 6 years

(Productivity in KG/HA)

Crop/State	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
GROUNDNUT						
Gujarat	339	774	996	638	842	763
Andhra Pradesh	831	660	990	753	1031	781
Tamil Nadu	1063	862	1222	936	1027	1086
Orissa	703	1340	1352	1317	1545	1549
Maharashtra	760	733	843	769	997	1036
Karnataka	724	581	755	652	841	866