

the situation. We want to pass on the benefit to the farmers. As the international price comes down, the intention is to reduce the prices progressively. That is our approach. It is not that the Government's decision was wrong.

National Food Policy

*67. SHRI DEORAO PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any integrated national policy to achieve self-sufficiency in food; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) Attainment of economic self-reliance is one of the major objective of national policy as laid down in the Draft Fifth Five Year Plan. In the sphere of agriculture, substantial and sustained increases in the production and productivity of food-grains are sought to be achieved through a number of measures such as expansion of cropped area, increase in area under high yielding varieties, extension of area under irrigation, command area development, increased use of fertilisers and pesticides, intensification of problem-oriented research, strengthening of agricultural extension and administration, expansion of the programme of multiplication and distribution of certified seed, expansion in institutional credit, effective operation of an agricultural price policy which provides requisite incentive for sustained and higher production and execution of land reform measures. The package of economic measures announced by the Prime Minister in the 20-Point Programme, such as bringing five million more hectares under irrigation, national programme for use of groundwater, accelerated power development programme, implementation of agricultural land ceilings and speedier distribution of surplus land would help achieve the policy goal of self-

श्री देवराव पाटील : मभापति जी, हम लोग आप के संरक्षण में काम करते हैं इसलिए कोई खास संरक्षण मैं कभी नहीं मांगता, लेकिन आज मांग रहा हूँ। मेरा प्रश्न था खाद्यान्न के मामले में आत्मनिर्भरता। आप देख लीजिए। सवाल है क्या सरकार ने खाद्यान्न के मामले में आत्मनिर्भरता प्राप्त करने के लिए कोई राष्ट्रीय नीति तैयार की है। उत्तर यह दिया गया है आर्थिक आत्मनिर्भरता प्राप्त करने के बारे में, और कृषि के बारे में कहा गया है कि कृषि क्षेत्र में अनेक उपायों से खाद्यान्नों के उत्पादन और उत्पादकता में काफी और मजबूत वृद्धि करनी है। और फिर उस के उपाय किए हैं। तो सवाल मैंने पूछा था कि कोई राष्ट्रीय खाद्य नीति है क्या? आप ने उस के लिए क्या कोई टार्गेट्स फिक्स किए हैं या नहीं? और अगर किए हैं तो क्या हैं। अंग्रेजी में क्वेश्चन बहुत माफ है।

"Whether Government have formulated any integrated national policy to achieve self-sufficiency in food;"

तो प्रश्न का उत्तर इस में नहीं दिया गया है। इसलिए मैं आप का संरक्षण चाहता हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you do not read the statement, who is to read it?

श्री देवराव पाटील : स्टेटमेंट में उत्तर नहीं है। तो मैं चाहता हूँ कि मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर फिर दिया जाए। इस से हम लोगों को प्रश्न करने में सुविधा होगी।

श्रीमती विद्यावती चतुर्वेदी : मन्त्री जी खुद अच्छी तरह से क्वेश्चन पढ़ कर ठीक तरह से उत्तर दे ताकि हम लोग ठीक से प्रश्न कर सकें।

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is equally the responsibility of the Member to read what is laid on the Table.

श्री देवराव पाटील : मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि देश का नेशनल फूड व्हीट और चावल है। उस में राइस के बारे में जो स्टेट्स हैं

पंजाब, हरियाणा, आंध्र प्रदेश और तमिल-नाडु, वह राइस पैदा करते हैं और वह अपनी लिमिट पर पहुंच गए हैं। मैंने बुनियादी बातों पर डिस्कशन करने के लिए सवाल यहां रखा था, अगर इन का प्रोडक्शन आप को बढ़ाना है तो क्या और हमारे स्टेट्स भी हैं कि जहां इनका प्रोडक्शन आप बढ़ा रहे हैं? इस के बारे में मिनिस्ट्री ने कर्षण क्या सोचा है? कर्षण कोई मीटिंग की है? वेस्ट बंगाल है, उड़ीसा है, बिहार है, मध्य प्रदेश और उत्तर प्रदेश है, उन में राइस प्रोडक्शन बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार ने क्या कोई कोशिश की है? इसी तरह से गेहूं के बारे में क्या कोई नयी पालिसी आप तय कर रहे हैं? यह मेरा पहला सवाल है।

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are discussing the subject in its entirety. Let the hon. Minister reply now.

SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE : Sir, I would like to very positively submit for the kind consideration of the hon. House that Government's intention is to have self-sufficiency in foodgrains as early as possible. Of course, I would not oversimplify the problems of agriculture. The problems of agriculture are not so simple as, perhaps, they may appear. But there is no doubt as far as the Government's intention is concerned. As far as this year's target is concerned, the hon. Member should be happy that because of the efforts, good nature and a number of steps that have been taken, it has been possible not only to achieve the target but even to surpass the target of food production. Now, Sir, the other points are by way of suggestions. The Government of India is constantly in touch with all the State Governments. A number of negotiations were held at the time of the formulation of the annual Plans, and crop-wise also, deliberations are carried on with them. Now, take for example, West Bengal. There the trend of production was not very happy. But because of a number of steps being taken and favourable nature and exploitation of under-ground water resources, etc., now the production is coming up very well. Wheat was never procured in West

Bengal. This time, we are getting complaints and recently we started procuring wheat. Similarly, in Uttar Pradesh, the production is stepped up. And in certain States like Madhya Pradesh and Bihar where there is a rich potential, the production is not satisfactory and we are not happy. But we are struggling with all these problems. I would like the sympathy and co-operation of all the Members and the State Governments to successfully solve this problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Would you like to put another supplementary?

श्री देवराव पाटिल : क्या इसी क्षेत्र में आत्म-निर्भर बनने के लिए भूमि सुधार को प्राथमिकता देना आवश्यक है? अगर है, तो 40 लाख एकड़ जो जमीन डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन के लिए हर एक स्टेट के पास है, उसका तुरन्त वितरण करने के लिए टाइम बाउन्ड प्रोग्राम कृषि मन्त्रालय ने क्या स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को दिया है?

SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE : To the first part of the question, I would say 'Yes'. The landless people play a very important part in agricultural production. As far as the question of distribution of land is concerned, a number of times we have taken it up with the State Governments, and we are told that most of the cultivable land has been distributed to the landless and other eligible categories of people. If in some States anything is lacking, we will review the position and write to State Governments and take necessary action. My information is that lands which have remained undistributed are of very inferior type, marginal lands, and very heavy investment would be required to make them cultivable. Government would like to give land to the landless and other eligible categories of people.

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA : Sir, it is a universally accepted principle that irrigation is an important factor for achieving self-sufficiency in food. Keeping this in view, I want to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what are the calculations and estimates for the target of expansion of area under irrigation to achieve self-sufficiency in food and how many years—it will take to achieve that target.

SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE : Sir, of course, I do not know whether I can make a positive statement that in a particular year self-sufficiency in food can be attained. But as I was telling the other House the other day, in the First Plan the margin between maximum and minimum production as a result of favourable or unfavourable nature was 29 to 30 per cent. This has been reduced now in the Fourth Plan to 11 per cent. And if we take into consideration that target which has been announced by the Government as a part of the 20-point programme, namely, 5 million hectares to be covered under major and medium irrigation and 6 million hectares under minor irrigation, we hope by the end of the Fifth Plan, this fluctuation will be narrowed down to a considerable extent and our dependence on foreign imports is likely to be reduced very substantially in the coming years.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : Sir, essentially the question is that of the rate of growth of agricultural production, as compared to the rate of growth of population. If the rate of agricultural production goes up considerably in relation to the rate of growth of population, then you move towards self-sufficiency. Otherwise, you are in a mire all the time. In absolute terms you may say that food production has increased by several million tonnes this year. But the population also goes on increasing. Why is it that the growth of agricultural production remains at such a low level, and why can't we enhance the pace of the rate of growth of agricultural production? This question has not been answered. This way, self-sufficiency in agriculture will become only a pleasant phrase which is flung at us every time without giving adequate explanation as to why the rate of growth is so low.

SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE : I would like to tell my hon'ble learned friend, who has spent his life in agriculture, dealing with problems of agriculture, that as far as foodgrains are concerned, the rate of growth of production of foodgrains is a little more than the rate of growth in population—I am not justifying population growth and all that. I can justify it by giving figures. The output of agriculture in 1952 was 52 million tonnes, in the First

Plan it was averaging 55 million tonnes, and in the Fourth Plan our average production has come to 103 million tonnes, without taking into consideration the growth rate which we have achieved this year; if we take that into account, it will come to 108 to 109 million tonnes, which is almost double of what it was in 1952. On the other hand, the population which was then 36 crores has now risen to 60 crores. So the hon'ble Member can judge how the foodgrains production is having an edge over the population growth. I am prepared to supply all statistics to the hon'ble Member.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : At this rate at which you are proceeding, how long will you take to attain self-sufficiency.

SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE : We will have to control the growth of population. I think family planning is a must for this country. As the hon. Member is aware, even at this rate, a very large chunk of population does not get adequate food. It is not because availability is not there. But the purchasing capacity is very low. The problem has great dimensions and deep complexities which we can go into separately.

As far as production is concerned, in the case of cotton, for example, we have more than doubled our production over the Plan years. We have also doubled our wheat production. The position is not satisfactory only in the case of two items, jute and pulses. Production is not satisfactory in these two items. As far as other things are concerned, like cotton and so on, we are in a happy position. All of us should be proud that our agricultural production is picking up very well, though our rate of growth can be much faster if some of the weak ends are tied up.

Pollution of Yamuna Water near Sangam, Allahabad

*68. **SHRI KRISHNA BAHADUR**

CHETTRI :†

DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRA-
BARTI :

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURA-
GOHAIN :

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishna Bahadur Chettri.