

Use of Sunflower in Vanaspati Production

*495. SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to Vanaspati experts sunflower can solve the Vanaspati crisis in the country;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to undertake a study on oil content of the sunflower for Vanaspati production;

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

(d) what steps are being taken to have a crash programme of sunflower cultivation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) It has been opined that sunflower can help in solving the vanaspati crisis in the country.

(b) and (c) The varieties of Sunflower introduced in India have an oil content of 38 to 40 per cent and this oil is already being used in the manufacture of vanaspati in India.

(d) Commercial cultivation of Sunflower, taken up from 1972-73 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, covered an area of 2.30 lakh ha. in 1973-74 and it is proposed to extend it over an area of 10.60 lakh ha. by the end of the Fifth Plan.

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA: Sir, this sunflower is grown very much in Soviet Russia and we are importing it from them. I am glad that we have moved towards the cultivation and production of sunflower so that we might have oil out of it and vanaspati out of it. But, Sir, I am disappointed . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may kindly put the question. I have to give time to others also.

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA: I want to know from the Minister whether it is a fact that cultivation of sunflower in only 10 lakh hectares will not be sufficient to meet the requirements of

the situation. Will the Government give its thought to have a large-scale cultivation of sunflower so that the scarcity of vanaspati may be a thing of the past?

SHRI B. P. MAURYA: Sir, the target of the Fifth Plan, as I have just stated, is 10,60,000 hectares. The production may come to 8 to 9 lakh tonnes of sunflower oil-seeds, and the yield in terms of oil will be something in the neighbourhood of 3 lakh tonnes, almost more than one-third of the requirement at the end of the Fifth Plan. So, if this target is achieved and the production comes to our proposed estimate, I am sure the crisis of vanaspati will be solved.

SHRI R. K. MISHRA: Sir, if the vanaspati industry merely transforms one form of edible oil into another form of edible oil, it has no social justification to exist. It should add to the total availability of edible oil in this country. In this context, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state as to what percentage of the raw material used by the vanaspati industry consists of edible oils and what percentage is of non-edible or low quality material like sunflower or cotton seed, and whether the Government will consider the proposal to impose a levy on the vanaspati industry in order to raise funds for a crash programme for producing sunflower?

SHRI B. P. MAURYA: At present, the use of sunflower because of its very low production is not satisfactory. We are using 0.75 per cent. of sunflower in the manufacture of vanaspati. But this ratio, Sir, can be increased up to 25 to 30 per cent. very easily.

SHRI R. K. MISHRA: Use of not only sunflower but cotton seed and other non-edible oils also. And merely converting one form of edible oil into another form of edible oil is no contribution to the total availability. What is the total percentage of the non-edible and low quality material which is being used by the vanaspati industry?

SHRI B. P. MAURYA: I mentioned the other day on the floor of this august House that we are encouraging the use of non-edible oils and for that we are giving

a rebate in the excise duty also. And for that, we are considering the utility of rice-bran oil, the palm oil and other oils.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: Sir, the hon. Minister is talking about the targets to be fulfilled in the Fifth Five Year Plan, i.e., the next Five Year Plan. You must remember that the next Five Year Plan is nowhere in the picture. It has yet to start. The shortage of edible oil is so acute that I would like to ask him whether they have got any programme of increasing the sunflower yield during this year so that this acute shortage of edible oil could be removed or, at least, lessened? Unless they choose particular areas and see to it that those programmes are implemented, there will be no possibility of reducing this shortage. I would like to know what programme they have chalked out from that point of view.

SHRI B. P. MAURYA: Sir, for the current year, i.e., 1974-75 we propose to raise the sunflower crop from a total area of 4.75 lakh hectares. This is the target.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: In which States are these 4.75 lakh hectares located where you are going to cultivate this crop?

SHRI B. P. MAURYA: Sir, the break-up is Andhra Pradesh 1 lakh hectares, Gujarat 60 thousand hectares . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You need not give details, you may mention the States only.

SHRI B. P. MAURYA: The States are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Punjab.

श्री वीरेन्द्र कुमार सखलेचा : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बतायेंगे कि बनस्पति की इस समस्या का मुख्य कारण है नेलों का भाव । उनके दाम आज बाजार में बहुत ऊंचे हैं इसलिये बनस्पति की यह समस्या खड़ी हुई है । इस नाते आप क्या विचार करेंगे कि सनफ्लावर की मार्केटिंग में आज जो कठिनाई है उसको दूर करने के लिये आप कोई प्रयास करें और सनफ्लावर जिनने रकबे में आप पैदा कराना चाहते हैं वह उतने

रकबे में बोया जा सके उसके लिये आप क्या व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं ?

श्री बी० पी० मौर्य : माननीय सदस्य का यह कथन सत्य है कि जो कच्चे तेल हैं, ईडेबिल आयल उनके दाम आज बाजार में ज्यादा हैं और जो दाम सरकार ने बनस्पति के नियुक्त किये हैं उन के मुकाबले वह ज्यादा हैं । यह माननीय सदस्य का कथन सत्य है । जहां तक सनफ्लावर को बोने के लिये सुविधायें देने का प्रश्न है, हम बहुत सी सुविधायें दे रहे हैं, पर यह भी अपनी जगह पर सत्य है कि मार्केटिंग के लिये जितनी सुविधा मिलनी चाहिये सन फ्लावर के लिये उतनी इस समय हम नहीं दे पा रहे हैं, लेकिन सरकार का प्रयत्न रहेगा कि जो किसान सनफ्लावर पैदा करते हैं उन को अच्छी सुविधा बाजार की मिल सके ।

श्री वीरेन्द्र कुमार सखलेचा : : मार्केटिंग सोसाइटीज को सन फ्लावर खरीदने के लिए फंड्स प्रोवाइड करने के लिये क्या आप केंद्रीय स्तर पर कोई सुविधा देना चाहते हैं ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question not allowed.

श्री वीरेन्द्र कुमार सखलेचा : उन्होंने उसका जवाब नहीं दिया ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Part of the question remains unanswered. He is asking about marketing societies, etc.

श्री बी० पी० मौर्य : श्रीमान्, हम कोआपरेटिव सोसाइटीज को इस क्षेत्र में सहायता दे रहे हैं, यही नहीं, हम किसान को भी सहायता दे रहे हैं । उनको अच्छा बीज देते हैं और उसके अलावा मार्केटिंग सोसाइटीज को भी सुविधा देते हैं, लेकिन सनफ्लावर पैदा करने के लिये किसान को जितनी सुविधा देनी चाहिये उतनी सुविधा देना आज की परिस्थिति में संभव नहीं है, लेकिन सरकार का ध्यान निश्चयपूर्वक इस समस्या की ओर है और सरकार निश्चित रूप से इसको हल करने के लिये प्रयत्नशील है ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Last question, Mr. Krishan Kant.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Sir, in continuation of what the hon. Member, Shri R. K. Mishra, has said, may I know whether the Government is considering the proposal of Professor Dantawala to stop the manufacture of vegetable oil and allow the people to make a change in their food habits? Has the Government considered the suggestion of Prof. Dantawala and, if so, what is the position? Secondly, I would like to know whether the Government has considered the question of Government take-over of oilseeds trade rather than allow free market higher prices.

SHRI B. P. MAURYA: Sir, so far as the first part of the question of the hon. Member is concerned, I think it will not be in the interests of the public that the entire industry must be closed down. There will be so many problems. The problem of unemployment will be there and the industry and machinery will be lying without any use.

So far as the second part of the question is concerned, namely, taking-over the production of . . .

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Not production.

SHRI B. P. MAURYA: I am coming to that.

Sir, to take over the responsibility of the production of the seed oil . . .

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Not that, procurement trade of the oil.

SHRI B. P. MAURYA: Yes, I am coming to that. Sir, it is not a practical proposition. Only 30 per cent of the edible oil is being refined by the mills. About 70 per cent is being produced by ghanis and kohloos which are situated far away in the interior of the country in villages. So, it is altogether impossible to control them.

*496. [The questioner (Shri S. A. Khaja Mohideen) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 31-32 infra.]

*497. [The questioners (Shri K. P. Singh Deo and Shri Lokanath Misra) were absent. For answer vide cols. 31-34 infra.]

Setback to foreign trade due to unsatisfactory conditions in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras Ports

*498. SHRI GURMUKH SINGH
MUSAFIR:
SHRI J. S. TILAK:†
SHRI KRISHAN KANT:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints have been received from foreign shipping owners and Indian industries regarding unsatisfactory conditions in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras Ports resulting in choking of foreign trade; and

(b) if so, what are the details of proposals received from various States for creating new ports in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):

(a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

No specific complaints have been received from foreign shipowners and Indian industries regarding chocking of foreign trade in the ports of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. In fact, the traffic handled at these ports during the period April to July, 1974 has been appreciably more than during the corresponding period in 1973-74, as shown below:—

| | | Traffic handled (lakh tonnes) | |
|----------|-------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | April to July 1974 | April to July 1973 |
| Bombay | | 65.20 | 56.46 |
| Calcutta | | 24.51 | 22.23 |
| Madras | | 24.39 | 22.04 |

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri J. S. Tilak.