

Scheme for drought affected areas in Madhya Pradesh

*225. SHRI M. B. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to solve the problems of chronically drought affected areas in Madhya Pradesh during the Fifth Plan period; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) and (b) The Drought Prone Areas Programme, started in the Fourth Plan period, is likely to be continued on an expanded scale in the Fifth Plan and will be the major vehicle for the agricultural development of such identified areas. The programme principally covers the chronically drought prone areas in 54 districts of which 4, namely Betul, Dhar, Jhabua and Sidhi are in Madhya Pradesh. The programme, which was initially focussed on rural works and employment generation, was subsequently reoriented on area development approach. The main thrust of the programme in the Fifth Plan will be on development and management of irrigation, soil and moisture conservation and afforestation, livestock development and popularisation of dryland farming practices.

Production of foodgrains

*226. SHRI SANDA NARAYAN-APPA:

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

SHRI PREM MANOHAR:

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR:

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of foodgrains in the country (state-wise) during the last five years; and

(b) the percentage growth (state-wise) in the production of foodgrains during that period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b) Two statements (I & II) [See Appendix LXXXVI, Annexure Nos. 20 and 21] showing State-wise estimates of foodgrain production and the percentage variations in production during the last five years are laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Scientific improvements for agricultural Statistics

*227. SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF:

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI

KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:

SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring scientific improvements in the existing system of agricultural statistics in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) Several improvements in the system of agricultural statistics have already been introduced in recent years and further measures are being taken in this regard.

(b) The improvements already effected relate in the main, to bringing about uniformity in concepts, definitions and procedures followed in different States, extending area coverage, introducing objective procedures for estimation of yield rates and enlarging the coverage of crop fore-casts. Future proposals envisage increasing the reliability and timeliness, strengthening central supervision of collection of area and yield statistics of crops and collection of new items of agricultural statistics.

(c) Does not arise.