

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 4th September, 1973/ 13th Bhadra, 1895 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock. MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

Damage to sugarcane by Pyrilla Pests

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of sugarcane in U.P., Bihar, Haryana and other parts of the country has been destroyed by pyrilla pests;

(b) if so, the particulars thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to check the damage to sugarcane crops from such pests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Large scale attack of pyrilla pest on the sugarcane crop in Eastern U.P. and Bihar was reported in the months of March and April, 1973. The State Governments took up immediate control operations in the affected districts in April and May and an area of 2.92 lakhs acres was covered in Bihar and approximately an area of 6.30 lakh acres was covered in U.P. by spraying of pesticides. The Central Plant protection stations also assisted the State Governments in the control of pest outbreak. The State Governments alerted the growers of the pest damage and advised them through the all-India Radio Broadcasts to take up plant protection measures. 1—21 R.S.S./73

In the months of June and July the State Governments of Bihar, U.P. and Haryana reported that die pyrilla pest continued to be a menace to the sugarcane crop in most of the areas of the States and that the affected area in U.P. (both eastern and western) was 17 lakh acres, in Bihar 3.07 lakh acres, and in Haryana 1.75 lakh acres.

With the onset of monsoon in July and August, there has been a build up of parasites which destroy the eggs, nymphs and adults of pyrilla pests. In view of natural control of pyrilla by the parasitisation spraying of pesticides was stopped in U.P. and Bihar. The extent of parasitisation is, however, being watched carefully and spraying of pesticides will be taken up again if pyrilla population is not effectively controlled. In Haryana, the State Government have initiated pest control operations over the affected areas both by ground and aerial operations.

The Central Government are in the constant touch with the State Governments of U.P. and Bihar so that immediate control steps will be taken up if pyrilla pest persists. The State Governments have already made necessary arrangements for the agricultural aircraft for aerial spraying.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :

Sir, first of all I would like to know from the hon. Minister the total area affected by this and other pests and what the Government is doing about it. Are there any spraying projects under contemplation, because this is going to affect a large number of people?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, the area affected differs from State to State. In U.P. the area affected is about 16 lakh acres, in Bihar it is about 3 lakh acres and in Haryana it is about 1.7 lakh acres.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: Sir, I would like to know the work that is being done by the Indian Council of.

Agricultural Research to control this pest problem which affects our crops and so often troubles our peasants. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister can throw any light on the research work being done by the much-publicised Indian Council of Agricultural Research. What is it doing, is it sleeping?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, there are two aspects of the problem. First of all, whenever any pest outbreak takes place, we have to take the plant protection measures. For this we have a special plant protection unit attached to the Ministry. In the States also there are similar arrangements. As far as research is concerned, the I.C.A.R. is also giving some help. But, Sir, we have a special plant protection institute at Hyderabad and I would request the hon. Member to visit that institute, so that he will be in a more enlightened position in regard to these matters.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : I would like to know the total value in rupees of the damage and destruction caused by these pests. And what is being done by these research centres to prevent so much destruction caused by the pyrrilla and other pests? How are you going to compensate the peasantry for this terrible loss? Do you propose to give any compensation to them, at least give them some relief, some percentage of the total crops destroyed by this pest?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, I can understand the sincere interests of the hon. Member but I would like to know whether anywhere in the world it has been humanly possible to prevent the total attack of pests and diseases that affect the crops. Of course, human efforts need be made and we are making such efforts. There has been some damage to the crops but it should not be assumed that the crop has been totally damaged, because the

sugar content is less. Sir, the only help we can give to the farmers is to provide help through the State Governments for taking adequate plant protection measures.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : I asked for the total value in rupees of the destruction. Have you calculated it?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: It is not so easy to make calculations about the losses but my experts tell me that in the country as a whole every year we lose about 15 to 20 per cent, of different crops because of pests and diseases, and this is normally the level all the world over.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether, in order to compete with the international market, we are subsidising. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly put a relevant question.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Sir, this is a relevant question. In order to earn foreign exchange, is it not the paramount duty of the Government to protect the sugarcane crops in the country and earn more foreign exchange by exports?

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not a relevant question.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Protection against pests, in order to earn foreign exchange.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, I rule it out. Mr. Krishan Kant, last question.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: As the hon. Minister says natural damage on a vast scale is done, whether it is in advanced countries or under-developed countries. May I know from the hon. Minister whether they have really considered the question of crop insurance at least for cash crops and, if so, what is the position?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: The position has been explained on the floor of the House that this question

was examined by expert committees •once or twice and by the Government of India also. The Government of India came to the conclusion, that taking into consideration the financial and other implications, it would not be advisable to introduce crop insurance immediately, but we have decided to introduce pilot schemes for crop insurance. As far as this particular aspect of the problem is concerned, what we want to do is to take adequate measures for plant protection, both preventive as well as after-care.

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER
COR-RECTING ANSWER TO
UNSTAR-RED QUESTION NO. 1217**

**Strictures passed by the Delhi
High Court against officers of the
Ministry of Finance**

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): Sir, in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1217 on the 22nd August 1972, the House was informed that in one case the High Court of Delhi, while disposing of a writ petition, have observed that a certain officer who was Respondent No. 2 in the case has made contradictory/incorrect statements in his counter-affidavits and the matter is being dealt with in accordance with the rules.

On a closer reading of the judgment and after consulting the Ministry of Law again, it is found that the particular paragraphs can more appropriately be regarded as a summary of the arguments made for the petitioner rather than the Court's own findings. This is confirmed by the fact that the learned Judge had stated that he was not deciding the question of *mala fide*.

The correct reply to the question may, therefore, be taken as :—

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Does not arise, in view of reply to (a) above.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER COR-RECTING ANSWER TO UNSTAR-RED QUESTION NO. 944

**Revival of rebel naga activities in
North Eastern Region**

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): Sir, in the answer furnished to part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 944 on the 16th August, 1973, it was stated that Government have no information regarding an incident on 10th June, 1973 referred to in the question. The Government of Tripura have subsequently furnished the information that on the 10th June, 1973, a gang of 3 armed Mizos raided Titahjayapara under Kanchanpur Police Station in North Tripura and looted articles valued at about Rs. 52 from two labour camps of contractors and that no involvement of local educated youth has been established.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

**Statements showing action taken
by Government on the various
assurances, promises and
undertakings**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following statements (in English and Hindi) showing the action taken by Government on the various assurances, promises and undertakings given during the sessions shown against each :—

- (i) Statement No. XXVI Sixty-fifth Session, 1968.
- (ii) Statement No. XXII Sixty-sixth Session, 1968.
- (iii) Statement No. XIX Seventieth Session, 1969.
- (iv) Statement No. XVI Seventy-second Session, 1970.