

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 6th December, 1968/the 15th
Agrahayana, 1890 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, [Mr.
CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

NEW AGRICULTURAL STRATEGY

-406. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of increase in agricultural production as a result of the introduction of the new agricultural strategy by the farmers as compared to the production before the adoption of this strategy ; and

(b) the State-wise success achieved as a result of the adoption of this strategy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) The new strategy consists of several parts. The High Yielding Varieties Programme, the Intensive Cultivation Programme, better land development and increase of irrigation coverage are all parts of the strategy. It is not yet possible to quantify the increase and distribute the increase between the several parts of the strategy and also to the increase that is also taking place in ordinary agriculture by increased application of fertilisers and better agronomy as a result of the techniques established under the High Yielding Varieties Programme. The problem of estimation of increase in the High Yielding Varieties Programme has been referred to the statisticians. It will be too early to expect considered opinion by them.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : The main effort is in the direction of evolving new strains, new genetic material having high-

श्री आर० पी० खैतान : क्या मंत्री जी बतलाएंगे कि रुई और पट के लिए भी क्या कुछ इसी प्रकार की प्रणाली अपनाएंगे जिससे कि पर एकड़ ईल्ड बढ़े ?

yielding characteristics, and co-ordinated research projects are being implemented in order to evolve new strains. Already there is some progress. 1—40R.S./68

Some strains have been released for general cultivation, and we expect substantial increase in production as a result of employment of new strains as well as new technology in agriculture.

श्री आर० पी० खैतान : क्या मंत्री जी बतलाएंगे कि क.प नहीं बढ़ रही है इसका क्या यह कारण है कि एक साल किसानों को कुछ दाम मिलता है, दूसरे साल कुछ दाम मिलता है जिसकी वजह से ये लोग इसमें ज्यादा ध्यान नहीं देते हैं, जैसे कि शुगर में, पाट में लास्ट इयर 40 रुपए के दाम थे इस साल 80 रुपए का दाम है ? जब कपास, छोटी होती है तब इनको बहुत ज्यादा दाम मिल जाता है और बड़ी होती है तो दाम नहीं मिलता । तो क्या सरकार इन बातों के बारे में ध्यान दे रही है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I should say, yes, Sir, because after all reasonable price to the farmer is one of the important aspects to which my Ministry attaches great importance. That is why last year, for instance, the ceiling on cotton price was removed. Our approach even in regard to the agricultural commodities is similar.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : क्या श्रीमान यह बताने का कष्ट करेंगे कि इस नए प्रोग्राम में अभी भारतवर्ष में किसी प्रान्त में आपने कोई ऐसे खेत के ऊपर एक्सपेरिमेंट किया है जो 50 एकड़ से ज्यादा हो और जिसमें नए-नए खाद के प्रयोगों द्वारा वहां पर सोनारा और मेक्सिकन व्हीट के उत्पादन में 80 फीसदी वृद्धि हुई है, ऐसा कहीं पर 50 एकड़ का कोई एक्सपेरिमेंटल फार्म आपकी नज़र में है ? अभी तक यह देखा गया है कि एक-एक, दो-दो, चार-चार एकड़ में इनके उत्पादन बढ़ाने की बाब गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से कही जाती है, लेकिन उस पर खाद, पानी और बिजली का इतना खर्च पड़ जाता है जिसके कारण किसानों को बहुत तकलीफ होती है । तो इस दिशा में जो आपका ज्ञान है उसे बताने का कष्ट करें ।

SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE : The hon. Member's conclusion is not obviously correct. In fact lakhs of acres were brought under new strains of wheat in Punjab, western U.P. and many parts of Northern India, and the general results have been very encouraging. There are individual farms of a size much larger than 50 acres where these new strains of wheat have been sown. The results have been on the whole very satisfactory. That is why we are increasing this programme on a bigger scale.

(Some hon. Members stood up)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am also giving a chance to Members who do not stand at all. I would like to give them some preference.

श्री बी० एस० सावनेकर : क्या मंत्री महोदय कपास के भाव और कपड़े के भाव में जो डिफरेंस है उनको ध्यान में रखते हुए कपड़े के भाव के हिसाब से कपास का भाव मुकर्रर करेंगे ताकि हमारे एग्रीकल्चरिस्ट लोगों को कपास के बारे में कुछ दिलचस्पी हो ?

SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE : I can understand the anxiety of the hon. Member. With due respect to the hon. Member I would request him that he should put this question to the Commerce Ministry.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Some of the agricultural scientists have expressed their apprehension about the susceptibility of Taichung Native I paddy to pests. Recently, fifteen days back, a meeting of the all-India rice research workers workshop, which was held in Cuttack, has recommended that a new variety IET-723 and CR-28/25 should be popularised because it gives better production than IRA to the extent of 10 per cent more and the maturity period of this variety is less by ten days. May I know from the Minister, in view of this recommendation of the experts, whether they are going to popularise these two varieties in the next season and give more importance to these than Taichung Native I about which there is some apprehension among the scientists also ?

SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE : We are having a very close watch on all these new strains. Naturally when new strains are introduced, first of all we give them trials. After the trials they are released for general cultivation. Because of different agro-climatic conditions there are some setbacks in certain regions. But a general conclusion should not be drawn that all these are not suitable to our country. With the help of exotic material we have evolved our own genetic material and that is being found to be very useful in many parts of the country. In regard to Taichung Native I, we had some setback in certain parts of the country.

SHRI A. D. MANI : The Minister mentioned that the new strategy has been largely tried out in Northern India. May I ask him whether any attempt has been made to enforce the new strategy in the chronically deficit States like Kerala ? If so, what has been the result ?

SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE : Yes, Sir. I should say that the new strains of paddy have been popularised in Kerala. They are spreading fast. As a result of that we find that the production is increasing.

SHRI A. D. MANI : In figures.

SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE : I have not got those figures now in regard to individual States, but broad assessments have been made on a State to State basis, and even in regard to Kerala I am in a position to say that there has been some increase as a result of the use of these new strains.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know if the attention of the Government has been drawn to the studies by 2 Economists and others that modernisation of agriculture is helped by smaller holdings and not by bigger holdings ? In view of this and of the experience of Japan, is the Government considering that the new strategy must depend upon land reforms for its successful implementation ?

SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE : As far as the land reforms are concerned, our views are very well known, and that is why we have been trying to insist on the State Governments that they should implement land reforms. But as far as modernisation of agriculture is

concerned, I do not think that small holdings only are useful for modernisation of agriculture. I think modernisation of agriculture can take place on big farms and small farms.

TRIPARTITE BODY FOR JUTE INDUSTRY

*407. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 638 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd August, 1968 and state the reasons for which Government have not agreed to set up a tripartite body to go into the working of the Jute Industry which is crisis ridden to-day ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAI-SUKHLAL HATHI) : So far as the present labour problems in the jute industry are concerned, there is nothing which a tripartite body can achieve which cannot be achieved by means of bipartite discussions between the parties, which have already been initiated by the West Bengal Government. Such discussions have also taken place in the meeting of Industrial Committee on Jute held on 10th July, 68 and 19th July, 68. Another meeting of the Industrial Committee on Jute is proposed to be held on 28-12-68. In the circumstances, it is not considered necessary to set up a tripartite body to go into the working of the jute industry so far as the problems affecting labour in the industry are concerned.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I think the hon. Minister will agree with me that the jute industry is facing a crisis today in West Bengal.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You need not go on with a speech. Everybody knows about it. Put a question.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I am coming to the question. In relation to block closure, the Government of India assured that there would be no block closure. But is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that in a large number of units in West Bengal *badli* workers, contract workers and workers of other categories have already been retrenched and they are not being paid any economic benefit so far. If so, what steps do the Government propose to take about those workers ?

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI : So far as the first part of the question is concerned, I agree that there is a crisis.

So far as the second is concerned, we will see that there will not be block closure; there may be staggering or regulation. Actually what we have advised the West Bengal Government is that they must call the parties and see that they regulate the work so that there is no block closure. And so far as the *badli* workers are concerned, well first we will have to take care of the permanent workers that they are not retrenched. They are also meeting on the 28th, and we shall take it also into consideration.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : May I know whether at the proposed meeting of the Committee the Government will initiate this question of the wage revision of the jute workers which has been agitating lakhs of jute workers today in West Bengal ?

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI : It was initiated and discussed in the last two meetings.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Sir, the Minister's reluctance to set up a tripartite body is not understandable because from the statements made in this House by the Commerce Minister last week and by the Labour Minister today, it is obvious that the quantum of work available to the labour force is going down because of shortage of raw material and various alternatives are being considered, block closure or staggering or lay-off or denial of work to the *badli* workers who are considerable in number. When these various alternatives are being considered, may I know why the Government does not accept the method of tripartite consultation which will associate the organised labour in the deliberations and make it possible for the Government to carry out its policy smoothly ?

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI : There is no reluctance on having a tripartite meeting. Actually, the Industrial Committee on Jute is a tripartite body. We had two meetings.

SHRI ARIUN ARORA : It is a nominated body.

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI : No, no. This tripartite body consists of labour, employers and Government. There are the representatives of the workers and the representatives of the employers. Of course, their Associa-