

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 20th December, 1968/the 29th
Agrahayana, 1890 (Saka)

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS AREAS UNDER CULTIVATION OF WHEAT, RICE, ETC.

687. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the
Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state :

(a) the comparative figures of areas under
wheat, rice and millet cultivation during 1967-
68 and 1968-69 ; and

(b) the comparative figures of areas under
cultivation of hybrid varieties and improved
seeds under I.A.D.P. in 1967-68 and 1968-
69?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND
COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB
SHINDE): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on
the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) It is yet too early to give firm figures of
area under wheat, rice and millets (*viz.* Jowar,
Bajra, Maize, Ragi and small millets) for
1968-69. These would become available only
after the close of the current agricultural year
1968-69 *i.e.*, by July or August 1969. The all-
India final estimates of area under these crops
for 1967-68 are as under:—

	'000 hec- tares
Wheat	14,917
Rice	36,722
Jowar	18,630
Bajra	12,539
Maize	5,577
Ragi	2,351
Small millets	4,756

(b) During 1967-68 an area of about 24.09
lakh hectares was covered under 1—61
R.S./68

the improved varieties of seeds of which about
0.26 lakh hectares was covered under the
improved varieties of seeds of which about
0.26 lakh hectares were under the hybrids of
maize, jowar and bajra in the IADP districts.
Similar information for 1968-69 is not yet
available.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: May I
know, Sir, whether from the statement the
Government is satisfied with the growth rate
envisaged in the Fourth Plan for a compound
growth of 5.93 per cent or whatever it is,
which means 26 per cent increase in the yield?
Is the Government satisfied that this growth
can be maintained on the present indications
of the food production in the year 1967-68 and
the anticipation in 1968-69 and if so, what are
the reasons that the Government thinks that
this growth rate will be achieved and that this
much production will be achieved ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Sir,
the honourable Member's question is much
beyond the purview of the question which has
been put here . . .

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: On a point of
order, Sir . . .

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Sir, the
question is in regard to the comparative
figures of area under wheat, rice, etc. during
1967-68 and 1968-69, and comparative figures
of areas under cultivation of hybrid varieties
and improved seeds. So the question really is
confined to areas, but the honourable Member
has referred to the growth rate which is to be
assumed in the Fourth Plan. The Fourth Plan
is still to be finalised and it is too early to say
anything about that. As far as the present
programme of agriculture is concerned, I
think, Sir, the growth rates, of course, subject
to final formulations, are well based on our
experience during the last few years.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, I want to
repeat that I have not gone out of the purview
of my main question in the sense I know what
is the acreage. I am a man who studies the
problem. But the point is on the basis of the
acreage how the Government wanted to
project itself in the Fourth Plan. Anyway, the
Minister has already answered my question.
Sic, I want to put my second question. I do
not want to trouble him . . .

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL:
But why do you make all this speech? Why do you take the time of the House? Put your question. Why do you make a speech?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I am not making a speech, Mr. Patel. I just wanted to . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Put your question.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: May I know from the Government whether it is a fact that the acreage that has been given and that has been anticipated is based on the production and the planting of hybrid varieties and the performance of hybrid varieties? Will the Minister please say whether he has received information or whether he has read in the press the opinion of a great economist, Dr. Roy, who says that the hybrid varieties are not proving successful to that extent either in this country or in Mexico from where they have been brought? May I know from the Government whether they substantiate this proposition or whether they do not agree with this proposition?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, the honourable Member showed me that article of Prof. Roy. The Ministry has also prepared one article. But we do not agree entirely with the views of Prof. Roy.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: Sir, may I know from the honourable Minister whether the areas under cultivation for wheat, rice and jowar crops have increased over the last five years and, if so, in what proportion? Further, May I know from the honourable Minister whether the yield per acre for these crops has increased and, if so, in what proportion?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Sir, I have got the figures about the areas. I do not think I should take the time of the House by reading the crop-wise figures. But, though there is some marginal increase, by and large, the acreages are more or less the same, and even our approach is to increase per acre yields and not to increase the acreage of the respective crops at the

cost of other crops. In regard to the production figures, Sir, at the moment I will require notice for that.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN : Will the honourable Minister lay a statement on the Table of the House about these figures?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: About acreage, yes, Sir.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: May I know, Sir, as to how much acreage the Government plans to bring under hybrid varieties and improved seeds to reach the target of self-sufficiency in five years which has been propagated and which they have worked out? And what will be that acreage in different varieties of seeds?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, as far as high yielding variety programme is concerned, we plan to bring about 32.5 million acres under high yielding variety programme by the year 1971. Of course, it is of paddy, wheat and various other millets. As regards the target of self-sufficiency within five years, we have made some progress in using hybrid varieties and improved seeds. About acreages, I have already given the figures. In relation to that, we have also planned to supply various improved seeds of foodgrains so that we are in a position to achieve self-sufficiency in the next five years.

SHRI K. P. MALLIK ARJUNU-DU : May I know, Sir, whether it has come to the notice of the Government that hybrid varieties sown in the delta areas of Andhra Pradesh so far as kharif crop is concerned, are not as successful as they ought to be, because in October there will be rains and the rains badly affect the hybrid variety crops? May I know whether this matter has been brought to the attention of the Government? If so, and if it is true, what steps will the Government take to meet the situation?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE :
Sir, I seek your protection because this question has no relevance to the question which the honourable Member was putting.

688. [The questioner (Shri R. P. Khaitan) was absent. For answer vide cols. 4972-4974 infra.]