

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 AGRI-
CULTURE 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, AGRI-
CULTURE COMMUNITY DEVE-
LOPMENT 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

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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 hec-
tares 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 produc-
tion in the year 1967-68 and the antici-
pation 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 ques-
tion 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 com-
parative figures of area under wheat,
rice, etc. during 1967-68 and 1968-69,
and comparative figures of areas under
cultivation of hybrid varieties and im-
proved 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 pre-
sent programme of agriculture is con-
cerned, I think, Sir, the growth rates,
of course, subject to final formulations,
are well based on our experience dur-
ing 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. Any-
way, the Minister has already answer-
ed my question. Sir, 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 food-grains so that we are in a position to achieve self-sufficiency in the next five years.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU : 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.]