

INCREASED COTTON YIELD DUE TO SPRAYING OF PESTICIDES

226. SHRI S. S. MABISWAMY:
SARDAR RAM SINGH; SHRI M.
K. MOHTA;

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that experimental spraying of pesticides in cotton fields carried out by the Northern India Cotton Textile Mills Association and the Indian Cotton Mills Federation have resulted in increased yields of cotton by 50 per cent to 70 per cent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the cotton farmers are unable to bear the cost of pesticides spraying even though it is partly subsidised by the Government; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to popularise plant protection measures with a view to increasing cotton yields and stopping cotton imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) A report received from the Indian Cotton Mills Federation for the year 1966-67 claims that as a result of starting Project centres and taking up Mass Plant Protection Companies there has been about 52 per cent average increase in the yield in the project areas as compared to non-project areas.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the financial condition of the cotton grower in different tracts, fifty per cent subsidy on Plant Protection Chemicals and hand-operated Plant Protection equipment is given to the growers by the Central Government under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for maximised Production of Cotton (Package Programme). Under the State Schemes, Central assistance to

•(•Transferred from the 6th May, 1966.

the tune of 50 per cent of the expenditure on all plant protection schemes is given as grant.

बिहार में अकाल न पड़ने देने के लिये उपाय

447. श्री जे० पी० यादव : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत वर्ष बिहार में जैसा अकाल पड़ा था वैसा पुनः न पड़ने देने के लिए सरकार ने क्या उपाय किये हैं ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि बिहार सरकार के पास (1) कोई ट्रैक्टर तथा बुल-डोजर संगठन नहीं है जो भूमि को समतल कर सिंचाई योग्य तथा उपजाऊ बना सके। (2) नलकूप खोदने के लिए पर्याप्त रिग प्लांट नहीं हैं ताकि लघु सिंचाई द्वारा अधिकतम भूमि की सिंचाई कर कृषि उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिये समूचे राज्य में नलकूपों का जाल बिछाया जा सके ; और

(ग) यदि उपरोक्त भाग (ख) में उल्लिखित कथन सच है तो क्या सरकार उपरोक्त कार्य करने एवं भविष्य में राज्य को अकाल से बचाने के लिये शीघ्र ही उपाय करेगी?

STEPS TO AVOID FAMINE IN BIHAR

447. SHRI J. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to avoid the recurrence of famine which overtook Bihar last year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government of Bihar do not have (i) any tractor and bull-dozer organisation which can undertake levelling of land and make it irrigable and fertile; (ii) sufficient rig plants for sinking tubewells so as to spread a net work of tubewells in the entire State in order to increase the agricultural output by bringing the maximum area of land under small irrigation; and

[] English translation.