

**श्री पुरुषोत्तम खोडाभाई रूपाळा:** सर, मैं एक प्रश्न करना चाहता हूँ।...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री सभापति:** आप मंत्री जी से अलग से पूछ लीजिएगा। प्रश्न संख्या 223.

**Effect of global warming on basmati rice**

\*223. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the annual production of export quality basmati rice in the country;
- (b) whether Government has taken note of an Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) study regarding the enormous effect the global warming could have on the fragrant basmati rice; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by Government to develop a new heat resistant basmati variety?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) The total production of Basmati Rice (Paddy) in the country during 2008, 2009 and 2010 was 6.23, 6.72 and 7.22 million tons respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Export of Basmati rice from India has almost doubled from 1.17 million tons in 2005-06 to 2.02 million tons in 2009-10. A substantial portion of these exports is made up of Pusa Basmati 1121, Pusa Basmati I and Taraori Basmati which constitute over 70% of the total exports. Pusa Basmati 1 and Taraori Basmati are regularly tested as standard checks for their fragrance and grain length in the All-India Coordinated trials, and there is no reported decline in quality of these varieties.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, what was the study report of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute on the effect of global warming on Basmati rice? At what stage are the trials of new varieties of Basmati rice presently? What would be the likely yield per hectare of new varieties vis-a-vis the existing varieties?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, the question was essentially asked about the production of Basmati rice and about the impact of the report which was published in the Times of India on the rice crop. Here the reply itself has explained in detail that in the last three years our production and our

export are definitely improving. I have mentioned in the reply, "The total production of Basmati Rice (Paddy) in the country during 2008, 2009 and 2010 was 6.23, 6.72 and 7.22 million tones respectively." This figure shows that there is no serious impact on the productivity and production. Export is also on the high side. We are continuously working in the area of impact of climate change on this particular crop. There was a report in the Times of India in which some information was given by a junior scientist, which is a sensitive information and it has sent a bad signal. But we have studied that Report in detail. Whatever information that has appeared in the media, that is sensitive information. But there was no scientific background behind that. The study was a limited period and a limited area study. The figures, which we collect and which are published in the media, are, generally, two year figures. But that was only a one year figure. That is why the ICAR has not accepted that Report. There are certain varieties which have been developed in our country. In fact, our observation is that the varieties are quite promising; the research is progressing well; the aroma is good; the texture is good; the productivity is also good, and it is also fetching a good price from outside India. That is why there is a continuous observation in all these varieties, and the results are positive.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: I would like to know whether the Government intends to release new varieties of basmati rice to farmers for cultivation, and whether the Government has any specific plan to develop basmati rice in Orissa.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: As I said, research is a continuous process. We have released many varieties. But you cannot release varieties in a day or two. One has to work on it; one has to observe; one has to take trials. Then, ultimately, the Expert Committee takes a final decision whether to approve it or not. After getting the approval from the Expert Committee, we do release it. As of today, we have not seen any variety which is convenient for Orissa. There is a selected area where you can get good quality of basmati, and Orissa does not come in that selected area.

**श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी:** सर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि पंजाब के अंदर ग्लोबल वार्मिंग का राइस प्रोडक्शन पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ा है और सरकार की ओर से उसके सोल्यूशन के लिए क्या स्टेप्स लिए जा रहे हैं?

**श्री शरद पवार:** जैसा मैंने कहा कि इस काम पर बहुत बड़ा ध्यान दिया गया है और कंटीन्युअसली इस पर अनुसंधान चालू है। इसी बजट में 350 करोड़ का एक प्रोग्राम "नेशनल इनीशिएटिव ऑफ दि क्लाइमेट रेसिस्टेंस

एग्रीकल्चर" के नाम से दिया है, जिससे पंजाब, हरियाणा, वेस्टर्न यू.पी., वहां के और बाकी देश के हिस्से में ऐसी जो मेजर क्रॉप्स हैं, उनके ऊपर क्लाइमेट चेंज का क्या असर होता है और वह असर कम करने के लिए क्या करने की आवश्यकता है, हालांकि रेसिस्टेंस किस तरह से डेवलप करनी चाहिए, इस पर काम शुरू है।

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what the export policy is for rice, in general, and basmati, in particular. Also, I hear that there is agitation from the rice growers that the Government keeps on changing the export policy for various qualities of rice. I would like to know what the export policy as of today is and what it is planning for the future.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: About the export policy, particularly, for basmati, there is no restriction on export of basmati, The Government of India does encourage export of basmati. But for non-basmati rice, there is a restrictive policy. In fact, recently, at the request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, from some farming communities of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, we have allowed certain varieties to be exported in limited quantity. But, in the case of non-basmati rice, we do not enter into exports, and the reason is that we have to protect the interests of our domestic population. We have to see that there is availability and affordability by every people. And, about this particular policy, the Government's approach is just to encourage basmati rice for export purpose, but not to encourage non-basmati. These policies are finalized under the aegis of the Ministry of Commerce.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has taken any steps to patent Basmati rice internationally; who the other claimants are; what other products that we are claiming patent for are.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, there was a famous controversy. Dr. Swaminathan is also here. In fact, there was a big battle on this particular issue. Ultimately, we have succeeded to protect the interests of the Indian farmers.

**सुश्री अनुसुइया उइके:** सर एक मिनट का समय दे दीजिए।...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री सभापति:** नहीं, तीन से ज्यादा सप्लीमेंट्री नहीं हो सकते।

\* 224 [The Questioner (Shri T.K. Rangarajan) was absent.]