

Agricultural Equipments

*423. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are providing agricultural equipments to the farmers at subsidised rates under various schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of assistance provided during 1992-93 and 1993-94, State-wise;

(d) the number of farmers benefited therefrom during the above period, State-wise;

(e) whether small farmers are also available of this facility; and

(f) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (f). A *Statement* is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A list of important Plan Schemes in which subsidy on agricultural equip-

ments is provided to farmers is as under:—

- (i) Special Foodgrains Production Programme (SFPP) - Wheat;
- (ii) Special Foodgrains Production Programme (SFPP) - Maize and Millets;
- (iii) Special Jute Development Programme (SJDP);
- (iv) Integrated Programme for Rice Development (IPRD);
- (v) Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP);
- (vi) Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP);
- (vii) National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP);
- (viii) Use of Plastics in Agriculture (Drip Irrigation);
- (ix) Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation.

The subsidy is available on identified improved implements, Plant Protection equipment, sprinkler and drip irrigation equipment, and small tractors of below 18 power take off Horse Power.

(c) A *Statement* is attached as *Annexure-I*

(d) *Statement* indicating State-wise targets is placed at *Annexure-II*. Information regarding farmers benefited is available with State Governments.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

Annexure-I

*Quantum of Assistance for agricultural Equipment State-wise;**(Rs. in lakhs)*

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Funds allocated to the State for agricultural equipments	
		1992-93	1993-94
1.	Andhra Pradesh	709.90	720.48
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13.00	23.59
3.	Assam	131.25	206.17
4.	Bihar	452.76	504.90
5.	Gujarat	726.19	459.53
6.	Goa	15.61	18.71
7.	Haryana	135.24	162.33
8.	Himachal Pradesh	115.52	154.73
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	70.25	78.11
10.	Karnataka	591.94	809.01
11.	Kerala	266.42	193.40
12.	Madhya Pradesh	746.39	889.53
13.	Maharashtra	788.08	1278.02
14.	Manipur	22.60	16.65
15.	Meghalaya	8.28	15.28
16.	Mizoram	23.00	23.29
17.	Nagaland	38.00	33.79
18.	Orissa	192.97	338.52
19.	Punjab	227.30	428.59
20.	Rajasthan	379.73	427.94
21.	Sikkim	19.11	18.87
22.	Tamil Nadu	774.40	886.34
23.	Tripura	41.24	42.93
24.	Uttar Pradesh	856.78	807.52

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Funds allocated to the State for agricultural equipments	
		1992-93	1993-94
25.	West Bengal	368.73	405.24
26.	A & N Islands	6.50	11.59
27.	Chandigarh	1.50	12.70
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6.50	11.59
29.	Delhi	6.50	11.59
30.	Daman & Diu	6.50	11.59
31.	Pondicherry	13.32	16.99
32.	Lakshadweep	6.50	11.59

Annexure-II

State-wise Targets for Agricultural Equipments

(in numbers)

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Equipment in numbers		Drip Irrigation system in hectares*
		1992-93	1993-94	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57282	69887	20000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2805	7350	200
3.	Assam	21605	25661	720
4.	Bihar	51990	56954	3200
5.	Gujarat	49411	51020	8000
6.	Goa	580	410	250
7.	Haryana	15196	30321	1800
8.	Himachal Pradesh	8655	38213	2000
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	8204	7206	1400
10.	Karnataka	34911	44910	20700
11.	Kerala	5747	7563	7300
12.	Madhya Pradesh	81555	137300	4700

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Equipment in numbers		Drip Irrigation system in hectares*
		1992-93	1993-94	
13.	Maharashtra	91333	107132	27000
14.	Manipur	2025	1685	200
15.	Meghalaya	389	1194	200
16.	Mizoram	755	860	200
17.	Nagaland	4055	2660	200
18.	Orissa	24313	28721	10300
19.	Punjab	28953	86477	1500
20.	Rajasthan	40764	56886	3000
21.	Sikkim	2722	688	200
22.	Tamil Nadu	55616	80080	14300
23.	Tripura	2977	3160	300
24.	Uttar Pradesh	113760	80433	7815
25.	West Bengal	9414	5641	2300
26.	A & N Islands	5	10	200
27.	Chandigarh	5	10	200
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5	10	200
29.	Delhi	5	10	200
30.	Daman & Diu	5	10	200
31.	Pondicherry	5	10	200
32.	Lakshadweep	496	275	200

* The figures are for entire VIII Plan period.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
Mr. Speaker, Sir, with reference to my question I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to make provision for collective storage of agricultural equipments through Block Development Centres so that small

farmers could hire these small equipments on cheap rates?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a separate question. However, it is for the State Government to decide as to what way they should adopt. We provide full financial assistance to the

States as an incentive or subsidy for the scheme to be implemented. In some schemes the percentage of such assistance is 100 per cent while in others it is 25 per cent or 75 per cent. Under that provision the States are free to do whatever they like.

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the names of projects for which agricultural equipments are being provided for agricultural development in Gujarat and the effects thereof on agricultural production? The hon. Minister may also mention the States which are still backward from the point of view of using agricultural equipments and the special provision made to remove their backwardness?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government continues to make efforts because there is no limit of development. The constant process of moving ahead is development. There are several pockets in the States like Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra etc. where people have adopted modern techniques, and efforts are being made to provide such techniques which can be applied either with oxen or are manual operating at places where full mechanisation is not possible. Funds are being provided for this purpose. So much so that provision is being made to provide factors of 18 HP so that small farmers may take their benefit jointly in agriculture. An amount of Rs. 30,000 is allocated for this purpose.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA

RAO VADDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is

mainly due to considerable mechanisation in Punjab, Haryana, Western UP and in some other parts that the farmers are able to immediately sow wheat after the harvest of paddy. But, similar mechanisation has not taken place in Southern States particularly the rice producing States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether it is a fact that the 8th Plan Sub-group on Agricultural Machinery recommended that 50 per cent subsidy should be provided on the agricultural machinery and implements, particularly the power crushers which help the small and middle level farmers in the crushing operations and also help in furthering the higher yields in the next crop. Will the Government reintroduce the scheme? The Government has discontinued a Centrally sponsored scheme for popularisation of improved agricultural implements from the year 1992-93. In view of the fact that the hon. Commerce Minister has said that Rs. 30,000 crores can be given as agricultural subsidy in this country, I would like to know categorically from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government will reintroduce this scheme or continue this scheme to help the farmers in taking up agricultural machinery in a bigger way and to help improved efficiency in agriculture?

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: It is absolutely correct. If mechanisation is not proper—just as the crops in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh etc. cannot be reaped manually—it affects even the souring of paddy because a large quantity of seeds scatter here and there and goes waste.

Some people have different views. A committee had been constituted which

had recommended to ban the harvester combine. There are persons in this world who are ignorant that the world has moved far ahead.... *(Interruptions)*

That is also there. I would like your suggestion to be accepted. But you must be aware that the coat is made according to the length of the cloth. I would like more funds to be allocated in this regard. We are making efforts... *(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: Please do not say that there is nothing.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I did not say so. I am talking of the Budget. You must have read in today's newspapers that we need more space for constructing godowns, we have to go accordingly. We are giving the assistance and would continue to give it as long as we can to the farmers for the modernisation of agricultural equipments.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that they are providing a lot of assistance to the farmers, and that the Central Government provide funds for the production of food grains like wheat, maize, rice, oilseeds, pulses etc. These programmes are implemented by the State machinery, and there exists a wide spread corruption at lower level, due to which the implementation is not effective. Has the Government reviewed the situation and also propose to take measures so as to provide benefits to the farmers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is about agricultural implements. Are you going to give more money.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the Government always wished to help the farmers. But they just wished. An amount of only Rs. 8 crore was allocated to Uttar Pradesh, Rs. 12 crore to Maharashtra and Rs. 8 crore to Tamil Nadu for this purpose. About 8-10 big projects are under implementation in these States and an allocation of only Rs. 7-8 crore for these projects is just like a drop in the ocean. Therefore, this allocation would be of no use. The Government should first generate more resources and then provide adequate funds. Pulses are still being imported. Why does the Government not invest more capital on certain specific projects and provide adequate financial aid so that the import problem is solved?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: It is true that we have limited resources. But there are certain things which are done to show the performance only. If you study them you would believe. If Shri Jaffer has done it, I should also follow the same path... *(Interruptions)*... why are you interrupting in between? I am making efforts that some very specific projects are taken up at large scale and demonstration be given. We cannot give financial aid with regard to every project but we can create a situation that people may realise that the project is beneficial. I will plan the things in a way that they may purchase other items of their necessity also with the funds provided to them. They may take the advantage if the projects are propagated.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: The Government must take the initiative and generate the resources in the interest of small farmers.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: What the Government is doing is in the interest of small farmers and not the big farmers. The State Governments have been directed to follow the guidelines in this regard and implement the project accordingly.

SHRI RATILAL VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, subsidy of Rs. 726.93 lakh was provided to small farmers in Gujarat during 1992-93 but it has been curtailed to Rs. 405.96 lakh in 1994-95. I would like to know the reasons for this curtailment. Has it been done because the State Government did not utilise the funds or there was some other reason?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: It is only through the report they provide, that reveals the details of the expenditure thereafter, the funds are allocated as per their demand.

Loss to Crops

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*426. DR. RAMKRISHNA
KUSMARIA:
SHRIMATI DIPIKA H.
TOPIWALA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is losing nearly twenty to thirty per cent of crop yields due to pests and other diseases;

(b) if so, the names of States that are most affected alongwith the damage caused to the crops during the last three years;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government in the Eighth Plan period to combat this menace; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Considerable loss in productivity is experienced due to different types of weeds. Besides, crop losses are also caused by pests and diseases. The estimated losses, in general, vary from 10-30% depending on crop variety, pest, weather and location etc. No comprehensive studies have been made regarding the exact extent of losses in the States. However, generally the incidence of pests and diseases during last three years has been noticed in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, Assam and Mizoram.

(c) and (d). During VIII Plan, Government is implementing a comprehensive Central Sector Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Scheme. Under this Scheme, emphasis is being given on training of State Extension Workers and farmers in the farmers' fields so that they can effectively adopt IPM approach to maximise crop production.

Integrated Pest Management Programme, *inter-alia*, involves the adoption of appropriate cultural practices, use of mechanical devices, sex pheromones, conservation and augmentation of bio-control agents and preferential use of bio-pesticides and neem based pesticides.