

(a) the estimated requirement of Seeds of various Foodgrains and Oilseeds in the Country at present;

(b) the total quantity of seeds of foodgrains and Oilseeds being supplied by the National Seeds Corporation, State Agriculture Corporations and other Government agencies;

(c) the shortage of Hybrid and Certified seeds in Comparison to the requirement thereof in the country;

(d) whether the Government have fixed any time-limit to overcome the shortage of the Seeds; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN) : (a) The estimated certified seed requirement, as indicated by States, for 1995-96 is 53.67 lakh quintals for Foodgrains and 13.89 lakh quintals for Oilseeds.

(b) the total quantity of Certified Seed/Quality Seeds of Foodgrains and Oilseeds being supplied by these agencies is 52.91 lakh quintals.

(c) In comparison to requirement, shortage is not there.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Pilferage of Edible Oil

257. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Edible Oil worth Rs. 1.80 crore pilfered daily by Mafia", appeared in the "Indian Express", dated October 14, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts therein; and

(c) the remedial steps taken to weigh the oil within the port area to avoid pilferage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA) : (a) to (c) Government has authorised the State Trading Corporation (STC) to import edible oils for the Public Distribution System. Edible Oil imported by the STC at various ports including Bombay is directly discharged from the Vessel to the storage tanks through underground pipelines. The quantity of oil is determined on volumetric basis. Oil is weighed prior to effecting delivery to nominees of State/UTs within the STC's installation which is located in the port area. No pilferage has been reported in these operations.

[Translation]

Development of Agriculture

258. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :
SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for constant development of agriculture on long-term basis in the State of Madhya Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN) : The Government of India has taken up a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes to assist the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in achieving sustained development of agriculture on a long term basis. These includes the following major schemes :

1. Integrated Cereals Development Programme (Rice).
2. Integrated Cereals Development Programme (Coarse Cereals).
3. Intensive Cotton Development Programme.
4. National Pulses Development Programme.
5. Oil Seeds Production Programme.
6. Integrated Development of Spices.
7. Use of Plastics in Agriculture.
8. Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects.
9. Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchment of Flood Prone Rivers.
10. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.

Research on Seeds

259. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether research work to develop improved varieties of Seeds of various Fruits, Vegetables and Foodgrains is going on in public and private sectors in the country;

(b) if so, the achievement made during the last two years therefrom;

(c) whether there is any Government policy by which the Small Farmers will also be benefited therefrom; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last two years, a number of improved varieties/hybrids and production technologies have been developed for cultivation in different agro-climatic conditions of the country (Fruits-13; Vegetables-58; and Foodgrains-71).