

day at the moment, there are various schemes for enhancing the production of gas and 25 per cent of the gas is being flared due to lack of infrastructure. We have a scheme for reducing the flaring to zero by 1994-95 through a World bank aided project of Rs. 7,200/- crores.

Foodgrain Production

*411. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of increase in foodgrain production in the country during the Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plan periods, respectively;

(b) whether there has been a decline in the rate of growth of foodgrain production in the Seventh Five Year Plan compared to the Sixth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The trend value of index number of foodgrains production during 1970-80 was estimated as 132.0 as against the actual level of 114.8 due to drought, with triennium ending 1969-70 as base 100. The index numbers of foodgrains production which were 154.3 and 183.4 in 1984-85 and 1989-90 respectively showed that ignoring the effect of drought, the percentage increase in index of foodgrains production during the Sixth and Seventh

Plan periods was estimated as 16.89 and 18.86 respectively.

(b) No, Sir. Based on trend value of production for 1979-80 as base, the compound growth rates of production of foodgrains, on point to point basis of index numbers, during Sixth and Seventh Plan periods were estimated at 3.17 and 3.51 per cent per annum respectively.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Sir, the trend of index number as stated by the hon. Minister in his reply shows that the growth rate of foodgrains production has increased. In view of this, may I know from the hon. Minister what are the peak production years in the Sixth and the Seventh plan periods and what is the percentage of growth rate of foodgrains production during the peak year of the Sixth Plan and that of the Seventh Plan periods?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BAL RAM JAKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Fifth Plan period the average annual production in million tonnes was 118 and the peak level of production was 131.9 million tonnes. In the Sixth Plan, the annual production was 138.06 million tonnes and the peak level of production was 152.37 million tonnes. In the Seventh Plan, the annual production was 155.10 million tonnes and the peak level of production was 171.04 million tonnes.

The growth rate of foodgrains production was as follows:

1949-50 to 1964-65	2.93% per annum
1967-68 to 1978-79	2.77% per annum
1967-68 to 1984-85	2.68% per annum
1967-68 to 1989-90	2.74% per annum

MR. SPEAKER: In which year, there was peak production which was achieved?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I will give you

later on. I will give it later.

SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: The country requires 240 million tonnes of foodgrains to

maintain the minimum level of domestic consumption by the end of the century. At the current rate of growth, it will take some 30 years to reach that target.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether he has proposed to take any specific step to accelerate the growth rate so that the country can achieve 240 million tonnes target by the end of the century?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very good question.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: We must plan for it. According to the population growth also, we have to accelerate it.

Therefore, we are taking into account all the factors and planning accordingly. So many new schemes are being put forward. Irrigation potential has to be increased; input has to be increased. Another bio-technology has to be used; new seeds have to be used. All these things are included in that. We are taking all these steps.

We have got integrated programme, special foodgrains production programme. We have also got special food grains programme for maize and millets and national pulses development programme. There is assistance to small and marginal farmers for construction of shallow tube wells and dug wells etc. All these things are included in that. As you know, we have to increase the pace of irrigation. That is the best method for increasing production. We have got 70 per cent land under rainfed conditions and 30 per cent is the rest. It takes lot of money to increase the area under irrigation. But we are trying to maximise irrigation using advanced methods of irrigation and other means, to harness the waters which flow into the rivers. It takes time. We are planning accordingly and, I think we are well on the road to that.

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Punjab is keeping its pace in the production of foodgrains.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me make it very

clear. This question relates to production in three Five Year Plans.

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: My question is whether it is a fact that Punjab has maintained the production in the Sixth and Seventh Plans and, if so, what is the total contribution Punjab is making to the national kitty in regard to wheat and rice.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: last year we procured about 54 lakh tonnes and again we are going to do the same. This year we are expecting harvest to be 120 lakh tonnes.

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: What is the percentage to the national kitty?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Percentage is 60 to 65.

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing one or two Members. But I am making it very clear that this question relates to the production in three Five Year Plans. It does not relate to the production in States.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know whether it is not a fact that much lesser cropped area is coming under irrigation in the recent Plan periods and in view of the fact that if the present trend of growth rate of increase of production of foodgrains continues, in the near future by the end of the eighth Plan, it will be lesser than the population growth where our country may become net importer of foodgrains and though you have just now narrated the strategies and the steps you are going to take for increasing the production, does not this Government think it necessary to increase the allocations to agriculture to implement the steps you have just now said, and also what steps the Government is going to take to bring more area under irrigation. In view of a very recent news that NABAD and commercial banks are proposing to withdraw their support to energisation of pumpsets, it is a very alarming news and, therefore, I would like to know whether you will interact with the Finance Minister and take necessary steps to continue the scheme.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I have already replied to that. But I can add that in order to implement all that the hon. Member proposed, I will need to get more money because money makes the mere go. If more money is made available, there will be development. According to the financial situation, whatever is available, I am trying to get more and more for that purpose. I know that irrigation is the basic input and for that I am trying whatever is possible.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: What about electrification of pumphests?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I will see to that. I will find out.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the target fixed for production of foodgrains is 240 million tonnes as has been stated during the discussion. I would like to know from the hon. Minister in view of the requirements of foodgrains by the end of this country what is the strategy being formulated of the rainfed areas and for the development of agriculture. For this during the tenure of the Government of Shri V.P. Singh an ambitious projects was included in the eighth five year plan for the rainfed areas in the form of watershed Development Programmes. Then it was also stated that an agricultural policy resolution will be brought to fulfill the target. I would like to know whether the Government wants to come up with the aforesaid resolution during the current session itself. If so, by when the resolution will be moved? Secondly, the Government has withdrawn subsidy on fertilisers. I would like to know the impact of withdrawal of subsidy on our production and whether the use of fertilisers by the farmers has declined?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The first and second part can be replied.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the question asked by the hon. Member, I would like to submit that it is the endeavor of the Government to make available the best quality seeds for the rainfed areas, requiring less irrigation facilities, and it will also be kept in mind how best the available water for irrigation in these areas can be utilised. In addition, I would also like to submit that in the matter of development, some regions have gone far ahead while others have remind quite backward like Orissa, Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. I would like to appeal to the hon. Members representing these regions in the House to awaken the Governments of their States, so that these regions also develop as the grace of God all the natural resources, prerequisite for development, are available there and just because of the lethargy, no steps in this regard could be taken in the past. The need of the hour is just dedication and determination as enough water available for irrigation and power generation, and also modern methos of farming can also be taught in these areas for the speedy development of those regions.

It is my desire that all of us must join hands in this endeavor. Secondly, as I have rightly been stated that population is increasing fast and if united efforts are not made to boost production the nothing could be achieved, as the total land area is limited and population is increasing at a fast pace. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I have asked a specific question. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Please sit down, I am coming to your question. maximum attention is being paid towards the Watershed Programme and if the funds demanded for the programme in the eight five year plan are made available, then priority will be given to it because only through this programme water can be conserved and pithily utilised in the future. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, I have also

asked about the agricultural policy resolution.

SHRIBALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, regarding agricultural policy resolution I stated that time also and I repeat again that discussions with the leaders of farming community of all regions of India have already been undertaken, so that a concrete policy can be framed in this regard.

Book bank Yojana

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*412. **SHRI CHANDUBHAI
DESHMUKH:
SHRI HARISH NARAYAN
PRABHU ZANTYE:**

Will the Minister if WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students benefited so far under the 'Book Bank Yojana' launched for the students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes studying in Medical and Engineering Courses, State-wise; and

(b) the funds allocated for the said Yojana during 1991-92, State-wise?

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI K. KAMALA KUMARI): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Book Banks for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students pursuing Medical and Engineering Degree Courses was started in 1978-79. The number of SC/ST students benefited under this scheme during the Seventh Five Year Plan and 1990-91 was 1, 06, 711 and 21, 062, respectively. State-wise break up list is enclosed.

2. The scheme has since been modified from the current Financial year to include Degree Courses in Agriculture and Veterinary and Diploma Courses in Polytechnic.

3. The budget allocation for 1991-92 is Rs. 5.00 crores. The Central share is released to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations as per their requirements, State Share provided in their budget and utilisation of Central assistance provided to them.