

eligible families had annual income between Rs. 1—Rs. 3500/-. Only 1% families were having income between Rs. 3601/- to Rs. 4800/-. On the basis of the assessment of annual income of the family at the time of the assistance, by the investigator, in about 7% cases, the annual income of the family was more than Rs. 4000/- which is the cut-off line for the purpose of identification. Regarding the mode of selection, about 60% beneficiaries were selected in the meetings of the Gram Sabha. About 35% beneficiaries were selected by officials and the remaining 5% cases were selected by others who include MP/MLA/VLC/Landlord/Employer and fellow villagers/neighbours.

About 78% beneficiaries have found the assistance sufficient for acquiring their assets. The remaining 22% cases did not find the assistance sufficient. Of these, in about 14% cases, the beneficiaries have met the balance money from their own resources and in the remaining 8% cases, they have met it by borrowings. Of all the beneficiaries of the sample, about 26% received working capital. About 40% did not require any working capital. The remaining 34% required working capital, but did not receive it.

Further, in about 31% cases, the repayment period was less than three years. Assets were found intact in about 70% cases. In the remaining 30% cases, the assets were not intact (i.e. either sold, fully perished, partly perished, defective or others). Continued support and care was given by Government agencies in about 29% cases at the national level. After-care support was not made available in about 39% cases and in about 32% cases, the beneficiaries did not feel need for any such support.

77% cases had additional income from the assets. On the basis of the revised poverty line of Rs. 6400/- about 11% of the old beneficiaries have crossed the poverty line. However, 46% of the beneficiaries have crossed the earlier poverty line of Rs. 3500/-.

Wastage of Fruits and Vegetables

1292: DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of fruits and vegetables produced in the country being wasted for lack of transport, storage and processing facilities ; and

(b) the steps taken to save them from wastage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV) : (a) No Comprehensive survey/study has been made to estimate the percentage of fruits and vegetables being wasted for lack of transport, storage and processing facilities. It is, however, estimated that such losses may be around 30% of the production of fruits and vegetables.

(b) In order to reduce such losses/wastage, the following steps have been taken by Department of Food :

(i) Modern Food Industries (India) Limited, a public sector undertaking of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies, has diversified its activities and taken up processing of fruits and vegetables. The company is already producing various fruit drinks under the brand name 'RASIKA' and is engaged in setting up a fruit processing unit at Bhagalpur in Bihar and a pineapple processing unit at Silchar in Assam. It is also considering proposals to set up some more fruit and vegetables processing units.

(ii) A Company, namely, the North-Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC) has been set up to undertake procurement, marketing and processing of fruits and vegetables produced in that region. The corporation is engaged in setting up a pineapple and orange

processing unit at Kumarghat in Tripura.

- (iii) The Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies is providing financial assistance to Bihar Fruit and Vegetable Development Corporation; an undertaking of the Bihar State Government, in setting up a fruit and vegetable processing project. It is proposed to extend such assistance to other State Government undertakings for taking up such projects.
- (iv) Subject to certain conditions, the Government has exempted the fruit and vegetable processing industry from the requirement of licensing so as to encourage growth of the industry.

Programme to Exploit Agricultural Potential in Orissa

1293. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 80 per cent of the total workforce in Orissa is engaged in agriculture and 60 per cent of its domestic product come from it and the State's economic development and poverty eradication is entirely dependent on its agricultural programmes ;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has pleased for multipronged action programme to exploit Orissa's vast untapped agricultural potential ; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the programme and efforts of Union Government as per recommendations made by the Planning Commission ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) According to the provisional population totals of the census of India 1981, 81.88 per cent of 'main' workers in rural areas of Orissa were cultivators/agricultural labourers. 60.9 per cent of

the State income (at 1970-71 prices) during 1982-83 was accounted for by 'Agriculture' Allied and Mining sector. As such the state's economic development and poverty eradication is by and large dependent on the growth of the agricultural sector.

(b) and (c) The State Plan envisages a multi pronged strategy for stimulating the growth of agricultural sector in the State which inter alia consists of (a) bringing substantial improvement in the productivity of crops where the current levels of yield are low, (b) intensifying measures for achieving a break-through in rice production, (c) undertaking development of rainfed lands in a scientific manner on the basis of watershed concept to improve production potential of the lands and achieve stability in yield, (d) maximising utilisation of irrigation potential through improved water management and adoption of suitable cropping patterns, (e) expanding scientific crop production system with emphasis on multiple cropping and inter-cropping for minimising risks and maximising farm incomes, (f) improving the input delivery system, and (g) strengthening extension support to curtail the lead time in the evolution of technology and its transfer to the field.

The State is participating in the centrally sponsored scheme relating to special rice production programme which is focused on evolving location specific technology for augmenting rice productivity.

The Committee on Agricultural Productivity in Eastern India appointed by the Reserve Bank of India has made recommendations of far reaching consequence for agricultural development on the basis of an indepth study according to various agro-climatic zones of the State. These recommendations have been accepted by the State Government for suitable action.

Tenancy Rights for Disabled

1294. DR. A.K. PATEL :
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to