

Area and Production of Pulses

Year	Area (Million hectares)	Production (Million tonnes)
1981-82	23.84	11.51
1982-83	22.83	11.86
1983-84	23.54	12.89
1984-85	22.74	11.96
1985-86	23.82	12.97

It would thus be seen from the above table that there has not been any gradual decline either in area or production of pulses in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) To increase the indigenous production of pulses, the following strategy is proposed during the Seventh Plan :-

1. Introduction of pulses crops in irrigated farming system such as double and multiple cropping;
2. Bringing additional area under :-
 - (a) short duration varieties of urd, moong etc., in rice fallows by utilising the residual moisture in rabi season
 - (b) in summer season with irrigation after oilseeds sugarcane, potato and wheat; and
3. Inter-cropping of arhar in soya-been, bajra, cotton, sugarcane and groundnut both under irrigated and unirrigated conditions;
4. Multiplication and use of improved pulses seed; adoption of plant protection measures; use of phosphatic fertilisers and rhizobium culture; and

5. Improved post-harvest technology; public policies including pricing and marketing of pulses.

Government of India have started a Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Project from 1986-87. The amount sanctioned during 1986-87 for N.P.D.P. is Rs. 600.16 lakhs (Central share). During 1987-88 under N.P.D.P. an amount of Rs. 368.589 lakhs (Central share) has been sanctioned for field programmes.

Losses in Public Sector Fertiliser Plants

136. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV:
SHRI MANIK REDDY:
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY.
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK:
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:
SHRI LALITESHWAR PRASAD
SHAHI:
SHRI MUKUL WASNIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the "Indian Express" dated 25th June, 1987 wherein it has been stated that there is a loss of more than Rs. 400 crores in the Public Sector Fertiliser Industries;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the names of the Public Sector Fertiliser Plants which are incurring huge losses; and

(d) the measures contemplated to improve the working of the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir, but the figure of loss for 1986-87 is highly exaggerated. Besides, the overall growth rate in production of fertilizers was 22.8% in 1986-87 and not 1% as alleged in the news-item.

(b) The main reasons for the losses are low capacity utilisation due to equipment and power problems, accumulation of stocks of fertilizers on account of low offtake due to unfavourable weather conditions; extra costs incurred in holding the stocks and rebates etc. offered in excess of the margins fixed by the Govt.

(c) As per the provisional annual accounts for 1986-87, the units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC), Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) (except Ramagundam), Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL) and the Thal unit of Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. are incurring losses.

(d) Schemes have been drawn up for revamping and modernisation of the loss making plants of FCI; for the HFC plants, the company has been asked to appoint consultants for preparing the detailed project reports for revamping. Captive power plants have been either installed or are under installation wherever necessary. The losses of PPL and the Thal unit of RCF are due mainly to accumulation of stocks, which are expected to be liquidated when sales pick up.

Decline in Number of Workers in Industries in West Bengal

137. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV:
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a perceptible decline in the number of industrial workers in major industries in West Bengal during the last three years;

(b) if so, the rate of such decline and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective steps, if any taken or being contemplated by Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). According to information received from the Government of West Bengal, the average daily number of workers employed in major industries in West Bengal marginally declined from 7.97 lakhs in 1983 to 7.91 lakhs in 1984 and 7.84 lakhs in 1985. However, these figures are not comprehensive due to non receipt of returns from many units. The rate of decline has approximately been 0.8%. Among the main reasons for the decline in employment are closures due to industrial sickness, use of synthetics as substitutes for jute and cotton products, lack of modernisation etc.

(c) Government have taken a series of measures to combat industrial sickness including the setting up of a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction which would oversee and implement rehabilitation packages for sick industries. Government have also set up a Jute Modernisation Fund and Special Development Fund for modernisation and revival of Jute Industry. In order to protect the Jute Industry against competition from synthetics, Government have since enacted the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987 providing for compulsory use Jute packaging material in certain industries.