

growing areas also, including Karnataka, so that the production can go up.

My next part of the question is this. The import particulars are given up to 1995-96. In the year 1995-96 as much as 3,305.45 metric tonnes of clove was imported. That means more than Rs. 50 crore worth of clove was imported. So that much of money in hard currency is being spent on import of cloves. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would think of expanding the traditional areas like Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka by providing more facilities to the clove growing agriculturists.

[Translation]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Karnataka clove plants grow well but do not bear flowers. I have asked to carry on tests to find out the causes of non flowering of clove plants. Clove plants bear flowers in Kerala and Tamil Nadu but not there. We can conduct tests to find out reasons. We have asked to look into this aspect.

[English]

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Now, Tamil Nadu has the highest production of cloves in India. Even though the production has been heavy, the farmers are not willing to go in for clove production. Have you got any programme through the ICAR to produce hybrid variety ? So far no research has been done. Have you got any idea to produce hybrid variety of cloves ? The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are very much suitable for clove production. Have you got any programme there ? Will the Minister answer to this question?

MR. SPEAKER : The earlier question was related to that. Mr. Minister, do you have any plan for exploration in non-traditional areas ?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : As I have told you, the first idea is to see how productivity is increased and find out what are the places climatically suitable for this. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands is certainly one of the traditional areas. But in the other areas also like Karnataka, as the hon. Member has said and as I have already told you that there is a defect. So, surely it will be looked into. Firstly, how to have a hybrid or tissue culture or something like that ? If that is decided, then we can go ahead.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : So far, there is no research done on hybrid variety.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : In a nutshell, this situation reflects the economic policies of the Government also. Let me put the question. Firstly, on a rough calculation, let us say the price difference between the imported and the domestic clove is Rs. 30 crore. Then who does the import and who gets the profit ? That is my first point.

My second point is this. You have 32 per cent import duty. Why can't that be raised in order to collect more for the Government instead of reducing in the import duty ?

My third point is this. Why do you not have a quantitative restriction ? It is because before you begin to improve, they will shift away from clove. The reason being it is becoming a losing proposition. So, some protection is necessary. At the same time, some egg on is also necessary to increase the quality and productivity. I would like to know whether such a view is possible by the Government or not.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, the point is that cloves are coming from neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka and other places. We do not want to impose such a high duty that it adversely affects us.

The hon. Member is aware that for the SAARC countries, we are going to reduce it. That will go against the policy that we have been pursuing. But by increasing our own production, we can compete with them. As I told you, in non-traditional areas like North-East, we are trying to increase our production. I have told you about Andaman and Nicobar Islands. By doing that, we can compete with them and not by raising the import duty. That will not be desirable. It is because we are having good relations with them. It is not the only item. Had it been some developed countries, then I would have considered this question for quantitative restriction also. But with our neighbours we have to go for higher and higher trade. I do not think it is advisable.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Who makes the profit ? Who are the importers ?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I cannot give you the importers' name.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It is not Public Sector Undertaking.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : How can we do it ? Do you think that India is now for Public Sector ?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I want a confirmation from you.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : do not think Communists have any illusion about that. The Communists would not have any illusion about where our country is going.

[Translation]

Supply of Seeds and Fertilizers

*325. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the farmers are not getting fertilizers and seeds in time in several States and the yield of agricultural production is declining as a result thereof;

(b) if so, whether any concrete steps have been taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under statutory price, movement and distribution control at present; whereas phosphatic and potassic fertilizers stand decontrolled with effect from 25.8.1992. Although efforts are being made to improve the supply of fertilizers and seeds in all parts of the country but still the demand at present outstrips supply. To meet this demand, nearly 20-30% of the requirement of urea and DAP is imported whereas in case of M.O.P. the entire requirement is met through imports only.

Making available seeds to the farmers in time is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. They arrange for distribution of certified/quality seeds to the farmers through various agencies including private dealers. Efforts of the State Govts. are supplemented by the National Seeds Corporation and the State Farms Corporation of India in making available seeds to the farmers in time.

In order to ensure adequate availability of fertilizers and seeds, a close liaison is maintained amongst various agencies responsible for production, procurement, movement and distribution. This year Government announced the Fertilizer Policy well in time by enhancing concession on Phosphatic & Potassic fertilizers to a considerable extent and providing transport subsidy to Jammu & Kashmir and North-Eastern States, including Sikkim with a view to improve the supply position even in the remote areas. In case of decontrolled and de-canalysed fertilizers, a provision was made for importing 25% of the requirement through Public Sector Undertakings to further improve their availability. Supply plan is regularly monitored and reviewed to ensure timely supply of fertilizers.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has stated that efforts are being made to improve the supply of fertilizers and seeds to all parts of the country but presently the demand for these is more than their supply. In this regard my submission is that when farmers reach the Centres of these societies, he finds that the despatch of seeds and fertilizers have not reached there. If seeds and fertilizers reach in time, then the big farmers and the officers connive with each other and take away the whole lot in

dark hours. The marginal farmer goes on approaching them for fertilizers but to no avail. Whether the Minister is aware of it ? Will you make arrangements to arrange for availability of these items to the marginal and medium farmers?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the criticism made by the hon'ble Member the fertilizers and seeds do not reach the small and poor farmers which is indeed a problem. We make supplies the basis of assessments sent to us by the State Governments. But that assessment is not enough to cater to the needs of all the farmers as demand for seeds and fertilisers is far more than their assessment.

The steps being taken presently include construction of one fertiliser godown in each such districts as it fall very far from the fertilizer plants. Stock should be kept there in off-season itself. Secondly, open offices and agencies of National Seeds Corporation in each district and thereafter in each block so that they get their requirements fulfilled near their dwelling places. If Panchayat system works well in other States, as is going on in Kerala, then it can be made available at Panchayat level also.

SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to make fertilizers and seeds timely available to farmers and the agencies like National Seeds Corporation and the Fertilizer Corporation of India assist them in this regard. Mr. Minister please introduce these committees at Panchayat level, so that the farmers get seeds and fertilizer because it is seen that generally the Government does not make these items timely available to farmers in the villages as a result of which the farmers have to procure these from privately owned shops to carry on their work. There is exaggeration if I may say that had not been these private shops, the farmers could not undertake their agricultural activities. What do you intend to say about it, Mr. Minister ?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, I have already replied that we are trying to provide it in each district.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I myself have experienced the shortage of seeds and fertilizers. That's why I want to tell Mr. Minister that earlier there used to grow 80-90 seeds in a wheat plant whereas now a days one plant gives only 50-60 seeds. That means sub-standard seeds are being supplied. If so, then what the Government is doing to supply quality seeds to farmers with a view to increase wheat production.

Secondly, as the hon'ble Member has rightly shown the concern that farmers do not get fertilizers and seeds in time. The seed is received by them when the rains are over and seeding time has already passed. Thus he resorts to open market purchase. Similarly seed are not received in time for wheat cultivation. The wheat seeds reach your godowns only when the farmers have already done seeding

in their fields. What you are going to do to make the timely supply of fertilizers and seeds.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already stated that we are making arrangements to make timely supply of these items to ensure opening of one depot in each district, and thereafter in each Block. I said so just now...*(Interruptions)*. I did not say that we have already opened. I said I would try ...*(Interruptions)*

My Speaker, Sir, first let me reply to the Member who has raised this question. Earlier Wheat plants used to give more seeds, now a day they give seeds in relatively less number. What actually happens is that we have to replace the improved seeds developed in our research centres after every four-five years. If we do not do that and keep it as national seed, that would not do. Hence we have to replace it every four five years and that is why such a situation is arising ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it might be that seeds available in market are okay whereas seeds available in Government godowns are sub-standard ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : It is a practical fact that after the decontrol of fertiliser the cultivators are neither getting them adequately nor at reasonable prices. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will control at least one component, the phosphatic and the potassic fertiliser and the price. The subsidy provided should be at the level of the consumer's sale price to farmers.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, as you know, urea is controlled but DAP is decontrolled. When the whole country is going towards decontrol, how can I now control one thing which has not been controlled ? This is the crisis that I am facing. If the House so desires, I can do that. I am only a firm believer to do it but the country is going towards decontrol.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the Hon'ble Minister has stated in the reply that it is the responsibility of the State Government to provide seeds to the farmers ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I did not say that.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE : My question is whether the Central Government has any say regarding the seeds provided by National Seeds Corporation. The seeds provided are sub-standard which lead to poor yields at times. I would like to know from the Minister as to whether the Central Government gives any compensation to the farmers for

losses suffered by them due to supply of such seeds ? A demand has been made for provision of compensation in such a case however the Central Government has not made any such provision as yet.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if National Seeds Corporation is responsible for it and if receipt issued by them is submitted to me, I'll ask them to pay the compensation. We are thinking about making amendments in legislation regarding Seeds Act so that those selling spurious seeds not only pay the fine but also the compensation. I have directed the Ministry to initiate action in this regard. We are taking action on it ...*(Interruptions)* That you will be doing by then. We will bring the bill ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Often pebbles are found in the Fertilisers ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RAJNI PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now Hon'ble members have raised the matter of losses suffered by farmers due to supply of inferior quality seeds. I would like to know from the Minister whether any step has been taken to seek commitment from those who supply inferior quality seeds. We do not want compensation because that would be given only once. The farmers came to know about the inferior quality of seeds only after sowing the crops. We are farmers so we do know that when one comes to know at a later stage that one has been duped, one faces difficulties. Whether any step has been taken for such companies?

As for the fertilisers, it has always been the practice, especially in Maharashtra that fertilisers arrive in godowns only after it has rained and all the work has been completed. You have stated in that regard that you will try your best. But the suppliers indulge in black-marketing and charge arbitrary amount from the farmers and even then do not supply fertilisers in time. What steps have been taken by the Government against those who do such a thing deliberately.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question has two parts. The first part is regarding seeds so far as the criminal aspect regarding the supply of seeds is concerned, it is already there in law. Hence it is yours as well as the responsibility of the State Government to file a case. If you ask us, we are there to help you. But the course of action is already provided under the law. What is not provided is the provision for compensation. We are initiating the action for payment of compensation. As far the fertilisers not reaching in time, we admit this lapse and criticism and we are making arrangements. I would also request you to inform us if the required inputs do not reach in time and then we'll try our best to supply the same.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have to give chance to the former Agriculture Minister.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : Sir, my question is regarding fertilisers. The answer given by the Minister regarding fertilisers is : "The demand at present outstrips the supply."

The demand of fertiliser is more than the supply. Now the prices of urea have been raised by ten per cent. They say that they are importing some urea. Last year also an effort was made and we saw Rs. 133 crore scandal in which not a bag of urea came to India and the money passed away.

Now, I would like to know one thing from the hon. Minister. Because of short supply of fertiliser, particularly in Punjab and Haryana, there has been a shortage of food production in the country which necessitated imports to the tune of two million tonnes of wheat. We are, at this point of time, importing this huge amount of wheat. If the supply of fertiliser continues to be short again, it is likely that next year also we will have shortage of food supplies in the country. This is a very serious matter. Would the hon. Minister reply whether efforts are being made to meet the entire demand of the people ?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Yes Sir. As far as possible it is being planned. ... (Interruptions) We are trying for that.

[Translation]

Godowns in Uttar Pradesh

*326. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the locations and capacity of the FCI godowns situated in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up offices/ godowns of the Food Corporation of India in those districts of State where they are non-existent,

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (d) A statement is being placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Details of locations and capacity of godowns (covered and open) available with the Food Corporation of

India at different locations in Uttar Pradesh are given at Annexures-I and II, respectively.

(b) to (d) The Food Corporation of India sets up offices/ godowns on the basis of requirement and viability and not necessarily in every revenue district of a State. At present, FCI has godown facilities in 62 revenue districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Construction of new godowns has been sanctioned in the following revenue districts:

- (1) Padrauna
- (2) Pithoragarh
- (3) Muzaffarnaga
- (4) Rampur
- (5) Shahjahanpur

Annexure-I

Statement Showing the Storage Capacity (Covered) (Owned & Hired) Available with the Food Corporation of India in Uttar Pradesh as on 01.02.1997

(Fig. in '000' Tonnes)

Location of the centre	Total Covered Storage Capacity (Owned & Hired)
1	2
Agra	54.98
Shikhabad	24.20
Karhal	0.71
Mainpur	13.35
Baheri	8.00
Bareilly	39.51
Parsakhera	49.17
Bilsanda	4.00
Bilaspur	9.10
Pilibhit	23.53
Puranpur	11.91
Bulandshahar	36.68