

Production of Cotton

3969. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the India has the largest cotton acreage in the World;

(b) whether the productivity of cotton in the country is much lower as compared to foreign countries such as USA, China etc.;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the productivity of cotton in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The area under cotton in India as per FAO Production Year Book 1994 was 7.67 million ha. as against 31.118 million ha. in the World in 1994.

(b) Yes, Sir. The average yield of cotton in 1993 was 264 kgs. per ha. in India as against 679 kgs. per ha. in USA and 750 kgs. per ha. in China.

(c) The main reasons of low productivity of cotton in India are :

(i) Almost two third of area under cotton is rained which is characterized by erratic rainfall behaviour;

(ii) Area under hybrid variety of cotton in India is about 35% of the total area which is very low compared to other countries;

(iii) Use of certified seeds is limited;

(iv) There is low rate of adoption of modern technology by the farmers, etc.;

(v) Cotton is grown mostly in black soil which faces water logging and poor drainage resulting in poorer yield;

(vi) Cotton crop is prone to pests and diseases which cause damage to crop etc.

(d) To increase production and productivity of cotton, the activities taken up under the scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme include transfer of technology through field demonstrations, Integrated Pest Management Demonstrations and farmers' training as well as incentives for use of critical inputs like hybrid seeds, farm implements, sprinkler sets, pheromone traps etc. As a result of these measures, the yield of cotton has increased from 152 kgs. per ha. in 1980-81 to 267 kgs. per ha. in 1995-96 and production increased from 7.01 million bales of 170 kgs. to 13.03 million bales likely in 1995-96.

Production of Pepper

3970. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's pepper production is the lowest among the neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the fact thereof;

(c) whether the area under pepper cultivation has risen by over 20,000 hectares but the production has remained at the level of 1989-90, during the last five years;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures being taken to improve the productivity of pepper in the country particularly in the State of Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The area and production of Black pepper in India for the years 1989-90 to 1994-95 is given below :

Year	Area ('000 ha.)	Production ('000 M.T.)
1989-90	171.50	55.20
1990-91	173.40	48.00
1991-92	184.20	52.00
1992-93	189.40	50.90
1993-94	190.99	51.32
1994-95	195.05	53.11

The reasons for stagnant production are :

1. Black pepper is a perennial crop with a gestation period of 3 to 4 years and it reaches full bearing only in the 8th year;

2. Prevalence of pests and diseases;

3. Existence of substantial area under old and senile gardens.

(e) For increasing production and productivity of spices, Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for Development of Spices is being implemented during 8th Plan with an outlay of Rs. 125.00 crores. Out of this, Rs. 63.50 crores have been allocated for development of pepper. The measures being taken to improve productivity of pepper in the country are : (1) Production and distribution of roasted pepper cutting of High Yielding Varieties; (2) Rehabilitation of old pepper gardens; (3) Distribution of input kits; (4) Plant protection against quick wilt diseases; (5) Eradication of little leaf diseases; (6)