

and comprehensive data on area, production and yield of most fruits and vegetables in India are not available, it is not possible to compare the productivity of most fruits and vegetables in India with levels obtaining in other countries. Official figures indicate that during 1983-84 productivity of banana, potato, onion and sweet potato per hectare are 14.6, 15.2, 10.1 and 7.1 tonnes respectively. Comparison with other countries is available for Potato and onion only. The production per hectare is not significantly different in the case of onion while it is lower compared to U.S.A., France and West Germany for Potato.

2. Research is conducted through four Central Research Institutes, four All-India Coordinated Research Projects and eleven Ad-hoc Research Schemes. A new Institute on Temperate Horticulture and four National Centres are proposed in the Seventh Plan. The strategy for development of horticulture during the Seventh Plan will be concentrated on the following aspects :—

- (i) Optimisation of production per unit area ;
- (ii) Extension of area under trees of outstanding merit ;
- (iii) Emphasis on vegetable seed production ;
- (iv) Development of horticulture in Arid Zones ;
- (v) Integrated development of horticulture industry including processing, marketing and export.

3. The following outlays have been earmarked for research and development in horticulture in 1985-86 by Government of India :—

- (i) Research — Rs. 739.5 lakh
- (ii) Development — Rs. 262.0 lakh.

[*Translation*]

Increase in Price of Sugar

*711. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to increase the price of sugar sold through Fair Price Shops ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Consequent upon an increase in the all-India average ex-factory price of levy sugar for 1984-85, the uniform retail price of sugar sold through fair price shops has been increased from Rs 4.00 to Rs. 4.40 per kilogram with effect from 1st April, 1985.

(c) This increase has occurred due to increase in cane cost, and increase in the all-India average conversion cost, etc.

Visit of child Labour Mission of I.L.O. to India

*712. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a child labour mission from I L O. visited India in 1983 to have field studies for various child labour projects ;

(b) if so, the projects so formulated ;

(c) whether some foreign donations/ assistance are given for the projects ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) to (d). On the

request of the Central Government International Labour Organisation sent a oneman child labour mission comprising Mr. A. Bequele. Towards the end of 1983 he visited some areas where there is a concentration of child labour and he also saw some projects run by voluntary organisations in the field of child labour. Upon conclusion of his mission a report for taking up an action programme was prepared by Mr. Bequele. International Labour Organisation has given an assurance of a small grant for taking up the project.

Mechanisation of Farming

*713. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have laid stress on mechanisation of farming ;

(b) if so, the steps taken for increasing the output through farm mechanisation in Sixth Plan period ;

(c) the achievement made in this regard during the above plan period ; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to bring more acres of land under mechanisation during the Seventh Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE, IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDU LAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The Government have laid stress on selective mechanisation of farming.

(b) The following steps were taken during the VIth Plan for speeding the rate of farm mechanisation :—

(i) Adequate capacities for manufacture of tractors, power tillers, harvester combines, etc., have been created.

(ii) Steps were taken to popularise animal-drawn improved agricultural implements and hand-tools for efficiently utilising the animal and human power. For this purpose a Centrally sponsored Scheme has been launched.

(iii) For identifying the improved agricultural implements and machinery for different agro-climatic conditions, a Central Committee, namely, Agricultural Implements Review & Release Committee was constituted.

(iv) Steps were taken to develop standards for various agricultural implements, machinery and tools. To safeguard the interests of agricultural labour, a Central Act, namely, Dangerous Machines Regulation Act, 1983 was enacted,

(v) Supporting services, in terms of training of farmers are technicians and testing of agricultural machinery and implements, were expanded and strengthened.

(vi) State Agro-Industries Corporations were also encouraged to take up manufacture and distribution of agricultural machinery on extensive scale.

(vii) Adequate credit facilities were made available through institutional sources enabling the farmers to procure agricultural machinery.

(c) (i) During the VI Plan period the annual sale of tractors increased from 65,000 to 81,000 over the Plan period.

(ii) Annual sale of power tillers increased from 1990 to 3950 over the same period.

(iii) Sale of power threshers had gone up from 50,000 to 75,000 annually.