

Edible Oils

* 223. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether self-sufficiency in Edible Oils has not yet been attained;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the gap between the demand and supply of edible oils at present;

(d) the quantity likely to be imported during the current year and for next financial year;

(e) whether any long-term or short-term plan has been formulated to achieve self-sufficiency in the edible oils;

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There are several reasons for the lower production and productivity of oilseeds in our country. Only about 20% of the oilseed crops are being irrigated. Hence, the extent and spread of rainfall has a critical role in the productivity of oilseeds. There has been a limited expansion in the area under oilseed crops due to the available substitution of crops like coarse grains and foodgrains. Lack of hybrid/HYV seeds is also an important factor as the required quality seeds are available to meet only 10% of the total requirements. Oilseeds are also susceptible to pests and other diseases. The production of oilseeds is yet to receive the desired priority in the extension set up in the country. In spite of these limitations, the production of oilseeds has increased from 169.2 lakh MTs in 1989-90 to nearly 220 lakh MTs in 1994-95. The estimates of production of oilseeds for 1995-96 is around 225 lakh MTs.

(c) The estimated gap between the demand for and supply of edible oils in the country during the year 1995-96 is likely to be 7 to 8 lakh MTs.

(d) The entire quantity of import of 1.5 lakh MTs for the Public Distribution System by the State Trading Corporation has already been completed and no decision has yet been taken regarding the quantity of imports for the next financial year.

Another six lakh tonnes are reported to have been imported by the National Dairy Development Board and private agencies.

(e) and (f). Some of the measures taken by the Government to achieve self-sufficiency in edible oils are :

(i) Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme of oilseeds;

(ii) Assistance in the form of subsidies are being provided to Oil Palm Growers' on seeds, inputs and for drip irrigation. Oil Palm Growers' are also being trained under the scheme at the established plantations in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, and also at Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (ICAR), Palode in Kerala.

Infrastructure for development of Oil Palm has been created which includes establishment of seed garden, nursery, frontline demonstration, demonstration processing unit, leaf analysis laboratory and a comprehensive training programme etc. By the end of 1994-95 about 16,100 hectares have been brought under Oil Palm. A target of 23,700 hectares has been set for the current year (1995-96).

(iii) Better incentive to the farmers through fixation of minimum support prices of major oilseeds;

(iv) Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) provides essential assistance to the States for production and distribution of quality seeds, plant protection measures including supply of plant protection chemicals equipments and organising demonstration of advanced technology, with particular reference to mustard, groundnut, soyabean and sunflower.

(v) A Technology Mission on Oilseeds was established in May, 1986 for harnessing the best of production, processing and management technology;

(vi) Increasing the areas under non-traditional oilseeds crops like soyabean and sunflower, exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran etc.

(vii) Concessional rate of custom duty on certain equipments considered necessary for modernisation and cost reduction of edible oils and fats;

(viii) Fiscal incentives designed primarily to augment production of oil from non-conventional sources.

[Translation]

Revamped Rural Functional Literacy Programme

* 224. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons likely to be made literate till 1995 and 1996 under the Revamped Rural Functional Literacy Programme; and

(b) the details of rural areas likely to be covered under the Programme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) In all 56 projects, each of one year's duration, are under implementation under the revamped RFLP scheme from 1994-95 in the States of Sikkim, J & K, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram to cover about 4.10 lakhs non-literates in the age group 15-35 years. Under each project 100 centres are allowed and each centre can enrol 25-30 non-literates. Since the projects were sanctioned late in 1994-95 and commenced subsequently, these are under various stages of implementation. The number of persons actually made literate can be assessed only on completion of the project span.

(b) RFLP is extended only to such areas and terrains where the campaign approach would be difficult to implement. At present the scheme is restricted to the States of Sikkim, J & K, North Eastern States, and border districts of Rajasthan and Dadra Nagar Haveli. It is only in these States/UTs that RFLP can be implemented, and only in such areas where these States decide that such proposals can be considered. As such, there is no definite plan to cover any particular areas.

(English)

Expenditure on Agricultural Research

*225. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of total outlay as well as Gross Domestic Product spent on the agricultural research during each of the Five Year Plans;

(b) the main thrust of agricultural research during the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plans; and

(c) the main achievements of research in the Agricultural Sector during the Seventh and Eighth Plans?

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) Department of Agricultural Research and Education came in plan ambit only since Fourth Plan. The percentage of total outlay and percentage of GDP spent on agricultural research by G.O.I. from Fourth Plan onwards is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Information is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) Information is given in the enclosed Statements-III and IV.

STATEMENT-I

Investment in Agricultural Research as percent of Total Outlay as well as Gross Domestic Product during Plan Periods

Plan	DARE/ICAR's outlay as % of total Plan outlay (Public Sector)	DARE/ICAR's outlay as % of GDP at current prices
1	2	3
IV Plan (1969-74)	0.535	0.035

1	2	3
V Plan (1974-78)	0.391	0.046
VI Plan (1980-85)	0.349	0.037
VII Plan (1985-90)	0.236	0.026
VIII Plan (1992-97)	0.299	0.034

STATEMENT-II

Main Thrust Areas of Research in Agricultural Sector in VII Plan

- Conservation and exploitation of germplasm resources of plants, animals, fisheries to broaden genetic base for improvement. Enhancing production through evolving new varieties/strains of crops and animals, incorporating multiple resistance against pests and diseases, saline and alkaline soil, drought, floods etc.

- Improving nutrient management system through biological nitrogen fixation, input-use efficiency and weed control. Complete inventory of natural resources using remote sensing and other advanced techniques.

- Improving dry farming technology, with emphasis on developing suitable crop weather relationship including tree and livestock as an essential component under different agro-climatic situations and on-farm water conservation and management.

- Energy management in agriculture; Post harvest technology with emphasis on-farm storage, processing and marketing of agricultural produce.

- Improving information and communication systems; Fostering excellence in research and educational programmes; Human resources development with special emphasis on weaker sections.

Main Thrust Areas of Research in Agricultural Sector in the VIII Plan

- Improve production potential of crops by developing varieties with multi-resistance and high productivity under low, medium, and high input conditions through the use of biotechnology and conventional technologies.

- Achieve self sufficiency in oilseed production.

- Increase productivity of horticultural crops and exploit export potential.

- Develop integrated farming system for sustainable agriculture.

- Increase biomass production for fuel, fodder and small timber.

- Energy management in Agriculture and exploitation of non-conventional energy sources.