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Title : *Pulses and Oilseeds Scene in Maharashtra by Shri M.P. Khare;*
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Since 1961, the country's population has nearly doubled to 844 million and the foodgrains production has kept up with the ushering in of the green revolution in mid-sixties in the cereals like wheat, rice, maize, jowar, bajra, etc. The component of pulses has however, lagged due to near-stagnancy in its production while the cooking medium of oilseeds has a moderate growth with a growth rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum well below the compound growth rate of population of 2.20 per cent per annum. Major pulse of gram shows fluctuations within a narrow band and indicates lack of trend and hence stagnancy whereas tur, a rainfed crop shows an upward trend within its fluctuations. Pulses other than tur have generally lower productivity and the lack quantified to gram growth rate of -0.43 per cent and tur growth rate of 1.99 per cent per annum and thus the two pulses covering 35 and 15 per cent of pulse production have contrasting behaviour while remaining pulses covering remaining half of pulse production has a mild positive growth rate of 0.54 per cent per annum. All this leads to 'all pulses' showing a production growth rate of 0.33 per cent per annum and the lack of parity with the population growth rate outlines the dimensions of the problem of pulses. One may attribute this lack of growth to absence of high-yielding, fertilizer-responsive and short duration varieties as in case of cereals. Barring gram, pulses are also poorly irrigated and tur does not even feature in irrigation statistics. Being nitrogen-fixing, even the modest doses of fertilizers are not given and the fact that for their own growth they need fertilizers is often overlooked. (Sections 1.1 to 1.3).

Among 'seven oilseeds', groundnut, rapeseed and mustard (together) and sesamum have importance of 61 per cent, 22 per cent and 8 per cent respectively (on the basis of their weights in the production index numbers). Major oilseed of groundnut has stagnated while rapeseed and mustard category has a good growth of 4 per cent over the thirty year period with area growth rate of 1 per cent and productivity growth rate of nearly 2 per cent and has registered somewhat consistent performance over the decades. Safflower, sunflower and soyabean are the emerging oilseeds (the last two are truly emerging as safflower is a traditional crop) and data on seventies and eighties indicate very high growth rates of 7 to 30 per cent per annum on account of area. These two crops of sunflower and soyabean have all the advantages of a new crop going through small to reasonably big magnitudes and high growth rates need to be interpreted in that light. But these emerging oilseeds appear to have a role to play