

The draft Agriculture Policy Resolution seeks to dovetail the agricultural development and research programmes to meet the challenges in Indian agriculture and addresses itself to the problems of under-employment, unemployment and malnutrition by generating activities through diversification of agriculture and promotion of agro-based industry. It aims at augmenting facilities for processing, marketing and storage, developing rainfed and irrigated horticulture; augmenting bio-mass production and increased utilisation of irrigation potential and promoting water conservation. It also aims at reviving and strengthening the cooperatives and increasing involvement of non-governmental organisations in agricultural development.

It emphasises that the decelerating trends in capital formation in agriculture would be arrested and resource allocation regime in the agriculture sector will be reviewed with a view to rechannelising available resources from current support measures towards capital formation and infrastructure building. An economic climate will be created for increasing farmers' own investments and efforts through a favourable price and trade regime.

It has also been stipulated that the Govt. will endeavour to create a positive trade and investment climate for agriculture at par with industry. The objective of Government policy will be to develop effective systems and bestow similar benefits on agriculture as exist in industry. However, care would be taken to ensure that agriculturists are not subjected to the regulatory and tax collection machinery of Government.

Incentives to Betel Leaf Growers

* 395. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide incentives to betel leaf growers during 1993-94;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for increasing the production of betel leaf in view of its export value?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following assistance is proposed during 1993-94 by Government of India:-

- i) Under Central Sector scheme on development of beetelvine an assistance of Rs. 37 lakh has been provided;
- ii) Under All India Coordinated Research Project on Betelvine, an amount of Rs. 30.74 lakh has been provided.

(c) The Government have proposed an investment of Rs. 324.99 lakh during 8th Five Year Plan period for research and development. The components of assistance to the farmers cover construction of Bareja (Conservatory), transfer of technology through demonstrations, irrigations facilities and control of insect, pests and diseases. The details are as under:-

i)	Central Sector Scheme on development of betelvine covering 20 states	- Rs. 200.00 lakh
ii)	All India Coordinated Research Project on betelvine at 10 centres.	-Rs. 124.99 lakh
Total		-Rs. 324.99 lakh