

Programme for Educationally Backward Minorities and Modernisation of Madarsa Education were launched during 1993-94.

(b) Under the above mentioned schemes, no grants have yet been released to Government of Bihar for want of suitable proposals from them.

Wheat Production

291. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :
SHRI TARA SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the falling Wheat output in North India during the past few years;

(b) if so, whether agricultural experts from India and foreign countries are examining the causes of stagnation in the Wheat production;

(c) if so, the factors responsible for Wheat output decline in North India; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the production of Wheat in the North India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN) : (a) During the last few years the wheat output in North India is not falling. In fact during the year 1994-95 it has reached a record level of 65.47 million tonnes with major contribution coming from Northern India.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

(d) In order to increase the production and productivity of wheat, a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Wheat) is being implemented in the States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J & K, Punjab, Rajasthan Northern and Uttar Pradesh (Western). In other States this aspect is being taken care of under ICDP-Rice and ICDP-Coarse Cereals Programme where assistance are provided to the crops being grown in a 'system' under cropping system approach. In addition to this, a Central Sector Wheat Minikit Demonstration Programme is also being implemented in wheat growing States for popularising newly released varieties.

Industrial Status to Agriculture

292. DR. (SMT.) K.S. SOUNDARAM :
SHRI CHEEDI PASWAN :
SHRI KUNJEE LAL :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to grant the status of an industry to the agriculture.

(b) If so, the details thereof and the manner in which it is likely to benefit the farmers;

(c) the details of steps taken in this regard and the progress made so far;

(d) whether the Ceiling Act will apply on the agriculture work being done in industrial establishment area which is more than the prescribed limit; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN) : (a) The draft Agriculture Policy Resolution envisages granting of status of an industry to agriculture.

(b) and (c) The Agriculture Policy Resolution envisages development of effective systems in agriculture like infrastructural development, value addition, favourable terms of trade etc. Benefits as exist in industry are proposed to be given to agriculture. However, care would be taken to ensure that agriculturists are not subjected to the regulatory and tax collection machinery of the Government. Moreover, it is envisaged that farmer will be exempted from payments of capital gains tax on compulsory acquisition of agricultural land within prescribed municipal limits.

(d) and (e) In case any industrial enterprise holds the land as proprietor, such holdings come under ceiling laws. On the other hand, if such industrial enterprise holds the land as lessee, such holding does not come under the purview of land ceiling laws. However, it is true that some of the industrial enterprises, both in public and private sector have not brought into use the entire land held by them as owner or as lessee as such extra lands are kept for future expansion. During such interim period, lands not utilised for industrial purposes might have been utilised temporarily for production of agricultural crops. It is expected that all such land through expansion of such industries, will gradually be utilised for the purpose it was acquired. There is also legal provision that additional land if not required by the industry may be voluntarily surrendered to the Government and alternatively the Government can also ask the lessee to utilise the land within the specified period failing which the Government can take back the extra land allotted to any lessee.

[Translation]

National Games

293. SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been decided that next National Games are proposed to be held in the State of Manipur; and

(b) if so, the programme chalked out for making them successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS) (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : (a) No, Sir. The next National Games 1996 are being held in the State of Karnataka.