

Plea in UN General Assembly against state sponsored terrorism

1242. SHRISHRAVANKUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he pleaded at the recent 46th Session of the UN General Assembly against the State sponsored terrorism such as abetment to terrorism by Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab; and

(b) if so, the response of the UN General Assembly and major member countries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is growing concern about terrorism in the international community as evidenced in the discussions at the United Nations. The General Assembly has adopted a resolution on 'International terrorism' which, inter-alia, urges all States to prevent the preparation and organisation in their respective territories, of terrorists and subversive acts directed against other States and their citizens.

Cotton Production

1243. SHRISHRAVANKUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in cotton production this year;

(b) if so, the number of bales of cotton produced in the country during the current year and the comparative figures for the previous three years;

(c) the reasons for such sharp fall in cotton production; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that cotton and cotton yarn are made available to handloom and powerloom weavers in

adequate quantities and at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). The estimated production of cotton in the country for the previous three years is as follows:-

Year	Lakh bales of 170 kgs. each
1988	87.44
1989-90(revised)	114.22
1990-91 (final)	97.59

The final estimates of production of cotton for the current year i.e. 1991-92 have not yet become due from the States. However, as per the current assessment, the production of cotton during 1991-92 is expected to be higher than that of the year 1990-91.

(c) The fall in production of cotton during 1990-91, as compared to previous year, was on account of pest (heliothis attack at the flowering stage of the crop in the major growing districts of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.

(d) Cotton is not used directly by Handloom and Powerloom weavers. Government has taken a number of corrective measures including suspending export of cotton yarn and by persuading the spinning mills in the Cooperative, Private and State Sectors to supply Hank yarn to Handloom weavers at pre-budget prices.

[Translation]

Treatment of Agriculture at par with Industry

1244. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: DR. VISWANTHAM KANITHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be

pleased to state:

(a) whether an Advisory Committee appointed by the Government to go into the issues relating to treatment of agriculture at par with industry has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

The Committee has made a large number of recommendations on farm price policy, alternative Food Security System, new strategy for greater production, incomes and employment, export of farm products, better use of land and water resources and declaring agriculture as an industry. As regards, treatment of agriculture at par with industry, the Committee has observed that "so long as agriculture is given the same facilities and incentives as industry and similar norms, standards and criteria are applied in the domain like fixation of prices, budgetary allocations, credit, power, transport and export facilities, it is of little consequence whether any formalised status is given to agriculture or not. However, if well-established and pronounced bias against agriculture cannot be corrected by Government policies and programmes, without according it the formal status of industry, the Committee recommends that agriculture be declared as industry."

[English]

Procurement Price for Paddy and Wheat

1245. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the procurement prices fixed for

wheat and paddy;

(b) the reasons for disparity in their procurement prices;

(c) whether the States of Punjab and Haryana have objected to the fixation of low prices for such procurement;

(d) if so, the main grounds of their objection; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The procurement/minimum support prices for the 1991-92 marketing season are Rs. 225 per quintal for wheat and Rs. 230 per quintal for common paddy.

(b) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) recommends minimum support prices for wheat and paddy after considering the economics each crop taking into account relevant factors like cost of production, changes in input prices, input-output price parity, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, inter-crop price parity, effect on industrial cost structure, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living, international market situation and parity between prices paid and prices received by farmers.

(c) to (e). The State Government of Haryana and Punjab recommended higher support prices than those recommended by the CACP on the basis of their own assessment of higher cost of production in the two states. The Government have fixed the support prices after considering the recommendations of the CACP and the views also of State Governments including those of Punjab and Haryana.

[Translation]

Oil Exploration in Central Areas

1246. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of