(a) whether Government have made a study as to whether loans given to the farmers by Government are reaching them in time; and

(b) if so, the result of the study and steps taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). Agricultural credit to farmers is disbursed by institutional agencies, such as Co-operatives, Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks. No specific study has been made by the Government to see if the credit is reaching the farmers in time. However, the Government has been impressing upon the institutional agencies that timely and adequate flow of credit should be ensured.

Effect of increase in prices of fertilizers

1128. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for increase in the statutory retail prices of fertilizers with effect from 21 January, 1986;

(b) the estimated amount of subsidy on fertilisers for 1985-86;

(c) the estimated amount by which this subsidy will be reduced during the next year; and

(d) whether Government are aware that increase in fertiliser prices will hit hard the weaker sections of small farmers and will result in the decline in consumption of fertilizers and consequent decline in production of foodgrains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The fertiliser prices were raised from 31.1.1986 to contain subsidy within reasonable limits.

(b) The estimated total amount of subsidy on fertilisers during 1985-86 is about Rs. 2000 crores.

(c) The subsidy level during 1986-87 is expected to be reduced by about Rs 400 crores on account of recent price rise.

(d) The recent increase in fertiliser prices may not have any adverse impact on consumption of fertiliser and consequently on production of foodgrains. The increased cost of fertilisers will be taken into account when fixing support prices for agricultural produce. It is also not likely to hit hard the weaker section of small farmers.

ICAR's R & D efforts on pulses, oilseeds, coconuts, fruits, milk etc.

1129. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Council of Agricultural Research has not succeeded in making any improvement in productivity of pulses, oilseeds, coconuts, fruits, milk and other productive foods;

(b) whether improvements claimed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research in wheat and rice were due to imported seeds; and

(c) whether Government propose to seek improved varieties of pulses, oilseeds etc. from Australia and Far-Eastern countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Research on pulses, oilseeds, coconut, fruits and milk and other productive foods is organised through Central Institutes, Project Directorates, All India Coordinated Research Projects and State Agricultural Universities. Through sustained research efforts, a large number of varieties and hybrids has been evolved and released for cultivation. Simultaneously, the appropriate cultivation techniques and plant protection schedules to maximise the yields have been standardised and recommended for adoption. As a result of extending the

package of production and management practices, the production of various commodities have increased as follows :

	1970-71 (*Million tonnes*)	*1984-85* (*Million tonnes*)
Pulses	11.82	12.20
Oilseeds	9.54	13.10
Fruits	7.00	22.50
Vegetables	24.60	35.60
Milk	22.50	38.80

However, in the case of coconut there is a decline in yield which is attributed to non-removal of the senile unproductive and disease affected plants, extension of coconut cultivation to unsuitable areas and abnormal monsoon conditions coupled with prolonged drought spells. Research efforts have, however, been intensified to minimise the risks of diseases and drought conditions are to improve the yields through the rapid development of high yielding hybrids along with corresponding management technologies. Some of the hybrids recommended for cultivation have a yield potential of 19.4 to 42.0 per cent more than the standard tall cultivars even under rainfed conditions.

(b) No, Sir. Indian Council of Agricultural Research has a strong wheat and rice improvement programme and a large number of high yielding varieties evolved under these programmes have contributed considerably to the increased production of wheat and rice in the country.

(c) Plant materials are being exchanged for the purposes of augmenting the germplasm resources and their utilisation in the indigenous breeding programmes.

Development of oilseeds varieties by ICAR

1130. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether ICAR has developed better varieties of oilseeds for increasing yield of oilseeds to meet the demand of edible-oil in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other measures being taken to increase the production of cereals and oilseeds in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has developed a number of high yielding stress tolerant good quality varieties and hybrids of different oilseeds crops along with appropriate production technologies. The data in the Statement I given below indicate their yield potentials under dryland and irrigated farming situations. Data in Statement II given below indicate the improved varieties of cereal crops.

(c) It has been established that the productivity of oilseeds can be substantially improved by adopting improved varieties, use of good quality seeds, seed treatment for protection from different seed and soil borne diseases, appropriate plant protection measures against various pests and diseases, application of balanced fertilizers and protective irrigation wherever possible.

The rabi summer groundnut cultivation has become widely popular in view of the fact that its yield potential is considerably high as compared to the kharif season. Similarly, area under pure crop of rapeseed-mustard and safflower has also imcreased. Sunflower and soybean have been developing fast. Massive efforts have been made to produce large quantities of quality seed of different oilseed crops.

As a result of all these developments, the production of oilseeds have gone up from 95.41 lakh tonnes in 1970-71 to 130.99 lakh tonnes in 1984-85.

In order to further increase production of oilseeds, the Government has decided to set up a "Technology Mission on Oilseed production" to make the country self-reliant as early as possible in vegetable oils and reduce the imports.

In so far as cereals are concerned, a large number of varieties developed and released for cultivation have gained popularity (Statement II).