

CENTRAL SECTOR

- i). Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects.
- ii) Integrated Watershed Management in the catchments of Flood Prone Rivers.
- iii) National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas.
- iv) Reclamation of Ravinous Area in Dacoity Prone Districts of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- v) Control of Shifting Cultivation.
- vi) Drought Prone Area Programme.
- vii) Desert Development Programme.
- viii) National Wastelands Development Programme.
- ix) Social Forestry.

Embryo-Transfer Technology

5819. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether vast advances have been made in embryo-transfer technology under animal genetic improvement programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to popularise this technology so as to benefit the poor farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The research in embryo transfer technology covers cattle, buffaloes, and goats. As result of the research, the first ever in-vitro fertilized embryo-transferred calf, named "Pratham", was born in November, 1990.

(c) The technology is being standardised and training programmes are conducted for personnel having adequate background in the filed of reproduction.

Use of Hazardous Pesticides

5820. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the pesticides produced or imported which are considered to be a health hazard; and

(b) the reason for the continued use of such -pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). The Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1986 registers relatively safe pesticides for production or import into the country. Eighteen pesticides which were considered to be more toxin/hazardous have been refused registration, so far. Besides, nine pesticides which were earlier in use in the country have been banned.

Self-Employment Schemes for Handicapped Persons

5821. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have introduced/propose to introduce any self-employment schemes for handicapped; and