

**COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :** (a) The Government have taken several measures to develop the animal husbandry, including poultry, in the country. The main policies and strategies adopted are as under :

(i) Cross-breeding of non-descript cattle with overseas dairy breeds and avoiding crossing with established indigenous breeds;

(ii) Continue selective breeding amongst cross bred cattle using progeny tested bulls so as to ultimately establish breeds of crossbred cattle suitable for different agro-climatic areas of the country.

(iii) Development of indigenous breeds of cattle and buffaloes of both draught and dual purpose types.

(iv) Improvement of buffaloes through selective breeding.

(v) Strengthening/expansion of infrastructure of the farms to make available good breeding material to meet the requirements of the various livestock development programmes.

(vi) Increasing the availability of animal health facilities at the doorstep of the farmers to safeguard their livestock.

(vii) Increasing the production of quality fodder seeds and adopting mixed farming system with suitable crop rotations to make available adequate fodder resources.

(viii) Rearing of sheep and goats to augment the production of wool and meat as also rearing of rabbits for fur and meat; and

(ix) Organising sheep breeders and poultry farmers into cooperatives upto the Marketing Federation level so as to prevent their exploitation by the middlemen.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) All developmental schemes on Animal Husbandry are meant to provide facilities to farmers in rural areas. In addition, under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) selection of schemes for the identified families, is done at the

block level after taking into consideration the skills and desires of the beneficiary and local market conditions. The State Governments and District Rural Development Agencies provide infra-structure facilities, under the State plans, to assist the IRDP beneficiaries to take-up various schemes including animal husbandry and poultry. In addition, 10% of the IRDP funds can be utilised for infra-structure development.

#### T V. Programmes for Children

4629. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a need for educative and enteraining programmes on Television for the children;

(b) if so, the steps taken to introduce such programmes; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) Programmes of specific interest to children are already produced and telecast by all major Kendras and Programme Producing Centres including INSAT Kendras. The programmes broadly can be categorised as :

(i) General programmes such Serials, Dramas, Feature Films, Cartoon Films etc.

(ii) Educational TV programmes.

(iii) School TV syllabus oriented programmes.

#### Manufacturers of Bio-Fertilizers by NAFED

4630. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether NAFED is manufacturing bio-fertilisers and if so, the details of production, prices and sales, thereof;

(b) whether these are popular with the farmers;

(c) whether field trials have been conducted on their efficiency; and

(d) whether there are also other manufacturers which are producing bio-fertilisers in the country and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) NAFED went into commercial production of bio-fertilisers in 1985-86. The information regarding production, sales and prices is as under :-

	1985-86	1986-87
		(Till Feb., 1987)
i) Production in MTs.	80.65	55-78
ii) Sales in MTs.	72.17	56.70
iii) Prices : The maximum retail price for the packages of 50 grams, 75 grams and 150 grams are Rs.3/-, Rs.5/- and Rs.8/- per packet respectively.		

(b) The popularity of the product with farmers is on the increase.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The list of producers other than NAFED producing Rhizobium Culture in the country, is given in the statement given below.

#### Statement

List of producers other than NAFED producing RHIZOBIUM cultures in the country.

1. M/s Microbac India,  
Head Office and Factory, Ogg Road,  
Shymnagar, 743127,  
24-Parganas, West Bengal.
2. Government of Rajasthan,  
Deptt. of Agriculture,  
Durgapura,  
Jaipur-302015.  
Rajasthan.

3. M/s VimpeX Agencies,  
No. 3, Balaji Nilaya,  
1st Cross,  
Swimming Pool Extension (Piplina),  
Malleswaram, Bangalore-560003.
4. The Maharashtra Agro Industries,  
Development Corporation Ltd.,  
Rajan House, 3rd Floor,  
Prabhadevi, Bombay-400025.
5. Microbiology Division,  
Mahatma Phule Agri. University  
College of Agriculture, Pune-411005,  
Maharashtra.
6. Microbiology Division,  
Haryana Agriculture,  
University, Hissar, Haryana.
7. Gujarat State Cooperative Marketing  
Shakar Bhavan, Relief Road,  
Ahmedabad-380001, Gujarat.
8. Govind Ballabh Pant,  
University of Agriculture and  
Technology  
Pant Nagar, Distt. Nanital (U.P.).
9. M/s Bacfil Inoculants Private (Ltd.)  
25, Newal Kesheer Road,  
Lucknow-226007.
10. Government of Himachal Pradesh,  
Dte. of Agriculture,  
Himachal Pradesh.
11. Indian Agriculture Research Institute,  
(Divn. of Microbiology)  
New Delhi-110012.

#### Gas-Base Sponge Iron Plant

4631. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN. Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a gas-based sponge iron project;

(b) if so, the place identified for the location of such gas-based project;

(c) whether some private companies have also taken interest in setting up sponge iron plants; and