

(a) in view of the fact that there is an urgent need to increase the management efficiency and productivity of farmers, particularly the small farmers, whether any corrective steps have been taken by Government in this regard ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). The steps taken by the Government to increase the management efficiency and productivity of farmers are as follows :

- (1) An agricultural extension system, popularly known as Training and Visit System of extension, has been introduced in the country to increase agricultural production and productivity. The system provides for regular visit of Village Extension Workers to the farmers and feedback of farmers problems to scientists for their solution.
- (2) The transfer of agricultural technology to farmers is also being made through the programme of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research namely, National Demonstrations, Operational Research Projects, Krishi Vigyan Kendras Lab-to-Land Programmes.
- (3) Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme, the small and marginal farmers are assisted through financial subsidies for investing in minor irrigation, land development and other agricultural activities ; and
- (4) The small and marginal farmers are also being assisted through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 5.00 lakh per Integrated Rural Development Block. The subsidy covers the areas of minor irrigation, distribution of minikits of improved seeds and land development.

Taking over of VISL

2354. SHRI S.M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any negotiations are going on for taking over Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited ; and

(b) if so, the progress achieved so far and the time likely to be taken in arriving at a final decision in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) and (b), Yes, Sir. Various aspects relating to the take over of VISL by the Central Government have been discussed with the Government of Karnataka. These discussions have covered the financial concessions required to be given to VISL by the State Government and the financing institutions in order to make VISL economically viable. No final decision has so far been taken on these concessions. It is not possible to indicate firmly the date by which the matter would be decided finally.

Per Hectare Production of Wheat and Rice

2355. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether per hectare production of wheat and rice is still very low as compared to other countries ;

(b) if so, the details of per hectare production of wheat and rice in the country as well as the World average ; and

(c) the steps being taken to raise per hectare production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). The following Table gives the per hectare production of wheat and rice for India as well as World average for the years 1984 to 1986 :

Per Hectare Production of Wheat and Rice

(Kg.)

Year	India	World average
Wheat		
1984	1843	2230
1985	1870	2193
1986	2046	2340
Rice		
1984	2129	3228
1985	2329	3286
1986	2202	3271

(c) Steps being taken to raise the per hectare production of wheat and rice include the following :

- (i) Adoption of improved technology and propagation of rainfed farming technology on watershed management basis ;
- (ii) Timely and adequate supply of agricultural inputs and credit ;
- (iii) Increase in the crop intensity through double and multiple cropping ;
- (iv) Increase in coverage of area under location specific High Yielding Varieties resistant/tolerant to insect-pest and diseases and various stress conditions ;
- (v) Adoption of integrated plant protection measures over a large area ;
- (vi) Adoption of area approach in potential regions/districts for increasing productivity of various crops ;
- (vii) Assuring remunerative prices of various foodgrains to the farmers and strengthening the organisational support for purchase of foodgrains at support prices ; and
- (viii) Intensification of research efforts for making available the economic and

viable improved production technology.

Besides the above steps, the following schemes aimed at raising the production and productivity of rice and wheat and other foodgrain crops are under implementation :

- (i) Minikit Programme of Rice and Wheat including propagation of new technology ;
- (ii) Centrally Sponsored Special Rice Production Programme ; and
- (iii) Centrally Sponsored Special Food-grain Production Programme.

[Translation]

Production of Garlic, Onion and Coriander in M.P.

2356. SHRI SATYANARAYAN PAWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been good production of garlic, onion and coriander in Madhya Pradesh this year but the farmers are not getting even their cost of production ;

(b) whether there is any proposal to purchase these items from the farmers with a view to give them relief ;