

implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

[Translation]

Biotechnology for Farmers

4900. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Biotechnology of India is under the control of multinational companies and which is not in the interests of farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the benefits of Bio-technology reaches to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) No Sir.

(c) The Department of Biotechnology is implementing a number of programmes for the benefit of farmers. These are : Biofertilizers, Biocontrol agents, Sericulture, Aquaculture, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Use of Embryo transfer technology, etc. Special biotechnology based programmes for SC/ST are focussed for target groups. Training, employment generation activities, awareness and education, large scale demonstration in the farmers field and health interventions are all aimed at ensuring the benefits of biotechnology for the farmers.

[English]

Land Fertility

4901. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether excessive use of chemicals and fertilizers reduces the fertility of land;

(b) if so, whether foreign countries have curtailed the use of chemicals and fertilizers to maintain the fertility of land;

(c) whether the Government have made or propose to make any study in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND

DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :

(a) Excessive use of fertilizers may lead to imbalance of nutrients in the soil. Consumption of fertilizer nutrients being about 75 kg. per ha. in India cannot be termed as excessive use. With regard to chemical pesticides also there are no reports about their reducing the fertility of the land.

(b) The fertilizer consumption in the World has declined during past few years. Increase in the cost and environmental considerations are among important reasons for the declining trend. With regard to chemical pesticides, however, there is no decline in the consumption.

(c) to (e) In view of the above, no study has been instituted in this regard.

Safety of Yamuna Water

4902. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the report of the Washington based International Food Policy Research Institute as published in the 'Hindustan Times', dated March 10, 1997 to the effect that Yamuna water in Delhi is dangerously polluted containing coliform count of 25 million organism per 100 millilitres and that Yamuna water leaving New Delhi received 200 million litres of untreated sewage water per day;

(b) if so, the Government's independent assessment about safety of Yamuna water for the National Capital region; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for supplying safe drinking water to people in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir. According to investigations carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board, the average coliform count in the Yamuna water along Delhi is around 3.5 lakhs per 100 millilitres. This is due to the discharge of untreated/partially treated sewage of Delhi.

(b) The Yamuna water will be safe only if all the sewage generated from Delhi is fully treated to the discharge standards prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board and a minimum flow is maintained in the river to dilute the effect of pollution.

(c) In order to provide potable water to the people of Delhi, raw water from the river Yamuna is drawn for treatment upstream of the Wazirabad Barrage which is not polluted. The drinking water supplied to the people of Delhi by the Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking of the Government of National Capital Territory

of Delhi is potable, safe and conforms to the standards laid down by the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment, Bureau of Indian Standards and the World Health Organisation.

Border Area Development Programme

4903. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated and released for the Border Area Development Programme to Gujarat during each of the last three years alongwith the details of utilization/ surrender thereof;

(b) the percentage of amount incurred on providing basic amenities like Water Supply, Road, Health, Power and total literacy;

(c) whether the amount spent was in accordance with the guidelines/priorities and the needs of the local population;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether there is any agency for monitoring the progress of the Border Area Development Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOLDAR) : (a) The funds allocated/released and expenditure incurred by Government of Rajasthan under Border Area Development Programme (BADP) during 1993-94 to 1995-96 are as under:

Year	Amount Allocated/ Released	Expenditure Upto 31.12.96 (Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94	626.13	601.03
1994-95	793.33	704.40
1995-96	858.00	705.26

An allocation of Rs. 858.00 lakh is made during 1996-97.

(b) The Sector-wise progress of the programme is not monitored by the Planning Commission.

(c) and (d) The schemes are implemented with the approval and as per priority set by the Screening Committee constituted in each State as per guidelines of the Planning Commission.

(e) The concerned State Government undertakes monitoring of the progress of work of the Programme. The Planning Commission also periodically reviews the progress. The review of the Programme is also made by the Empowered Committee.

[Translation]

Environment Management Scheme

4904. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Pollution Control Board is formulating an Environment Management Scheme for the urban areas of main cities in the country and Kanpur is the first such city selected for this purpose;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether study is being undertaken to check the level of pollution in Kanpur under the scheme;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the details of the work being undertaken under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (e) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has initiated project on formulation of "Environmental Management Plan" for major urban areas in the country. During the year 1996-97, pilot studies have been taken up for Kanpur and Haldia. The Environmental Management Plan for Kanpur area is under preparation. The proposed study envisages the assessment of the environmental status and pollution levels in Kanpur including identification of "hot spots" from the point of view of air, water and land pollution. As the study is in progress, the outcome of the assessment will be known after completion of the study.

[English]

Impact of Decanalisation of Sugar Export

4905. SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently decanalised the export of sugar;

(b) whether delay in the sugar export has caused a loss of Rs. 42 crore to the National Exchequer;

(c) whether the Government have investigated into the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that such losses do not recur?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND