

(c) the measures contemplated by the Government to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) No systematic studies have been undertaken to assess the annual loss of foodgrains in the country on account of land degradation and crop damage due to pollution. However, the land degradation will definitely affect the soil fertility and thus its productivity.

(c) To deal with the land degradation hazards created by water and wind erosion and other location-specific causative factors, the Government is implementing a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, (i) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP), (ii) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers (FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils and (iv) Scheme of Watershed Management for Shifting Cultivation areas in North Eastern India. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have established Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Centres at various places in the country. Suitable technology has been developed to minimise the extent of land degradation.

[Translation]

#### Damage to Mango Crop

\*17. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the mango crop has been destroyed in the entire Northern region;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) the loss incurred by the fruit cultivators on account of destruction of mango crop;

(d) whether the Government propose to pay any compensation to those fruit cultivators whose crop has been destroyed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There has, however, been less production of mango crop in parts of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan States. The low production is attributed mainly to the 'off' year in the alternate year bearing cycle of mango crop aggravated by adverse whether conditions like prolonged cold spell during the flowering season, coupled with rains and occasional hail storms during the post flowering season.

(c) The loss of production incurred in the States of Haryana and Rajasthan has been to the extent of 15 percent and 33 percent respectively. The loss in Uttar Pradesh plains has been estimated to the tune of 70 to 75 percent. No loss has been reported from the Uttar Pradesh Hills and Punjab.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Because compensation for damage of Mango crop is not covered under Crop Insurance Scheme.

[English]

#### Central Vigilance Commission

\*18. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Government that the Director, CBI, Enforcement Directorate etc. would be appointed by a selection panel and work under the control of the Central Vigilance Commissioner; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to implement the directions of the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has already in terms of the directions of the Supreme Court, constituted the "CBI Selection Board" regarding appointment of Director, CBI.

[Translation]

#### Policy for NCES

\*19. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have adopted/contemplated any comprehensive policy for the promotion and the usages of non-conventional energy sources; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has initiated an exercise for formulation of a comprehensive renewable energy policy. A series of meetings/consultation with State Governments, scientists, technologists, industries, financial institutions and experts in the area of renewable energy were held. Based on these interactions, and experience gained in implementing non-conventional energy programmes, a draft Renewable Energy Policy Statement has been prepared.

The main objectives of the draft Renewable Energy Policy Statement include : Augmentation of grid electricity supply; Energy for rural development; substitution of fossil