

Agriculture Research System

6212. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of changes being brought in the Agriculture Research System;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the poor response of the research work in agriculture; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The National Agriculture Research System (NARS) in India is the culmination of the process which started in the last century and which resulted in the establishment of Imperial (now Indian) Council of Agricultural Research in 1929. The ICAR has twice undergone reorganisation in 1963 and in 1973. The State Agriculture Universities (SAUs) as significant component of NARS came up during 1960s. Originally, the research in NARS was commodity/discipline oriented. Now it is reoriented to develop multi-disciplinary and system oriented to develop location specific technologies.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In general, the investment in agricultural research yielded an internal rate of return of more than 40 percent. Wherever there is poor response, the government has taken the following steps to improve response to research:

(i) Reorientation of agricultural research by conducting location specific research in multi-disciplinary and production system mode.

(ii) Strengthening the agricultural education for development of human resource.

(iii) Strengthening research, extension and farmer linkages through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), and active interface of scientists with development departments at all levels.

Oilseeds Production

6213. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country have achieved self-sufficiency in oilseeds production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Technology Mission on oilseeds launched by the Government has helped in stepping up production and productivity of oilseed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) While setting up the Technology Mission on Oilseeds in the year 1986, the aim was to produce 16.5 million tonnes of Oilseeds in 1989-90, which the Mission has already achieved by increasing the production upto 16.92 million tonnes in 1989-90. However, the increase in the production of Oilseeds has not kept pace with the demand for edible oils caused by rise in population and per capita income growth resulting in demand-supply gap which is met by resorting to imports of edible oils.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The production of Oilseeds has increased significantly from a level of 10.83 million tonnes in 1985-86 when the Technology Mission on Oilseeds was set up to the level of 24.96 million tonnes in 1996-97 which was an all time high record production achieved so far. The productivity of oilseeds which was 570 Kg. per ha. in 1985-86 has also increased to 931 Kg. per ha. in 1996-97.

[Translation]

Intensive Scheme for Cotton Growing Areas

6214. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent an intensive scheme for the expansion of cotton growing areas;

(b) if so, since when the proposal is pending for approval;

(c) the reasons for delay, if any; and

(d) the time by which the proposal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A proposal for continuation of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Intensive Cotton Development Programme for 1998-99, was received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. After scrutinising the proposal, administrative approval has already been issued on 20th May, 1998.

[English]

Attack on Iraq

6215. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the month of February, 1998 the US and its allies had decided to attack Iraq once again;

(b) if so, whether number of countries opposed the move of the US and its allies;

(c) what was India's role played during these talks;