

Statement

(a) and (b) The availability of dry fodder and green fodder in the country has been estimated to be below the requirement. The position in Gujarat, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh is as under:

	Requirement	Availability (Million tonnes)
1. Gujarat		
Green Fodder	30.50	26.00
Dry Fodder	13.20	9.60
2. Orissa		
Green Fodder	124.39	2.65
Dry Fodder	15.61	11.75
3. Madhya Pradesh		
Green Fodder	87.60	87.60
Dry Fodder	68.20	68.43

(c) There is no such proposal.

(d) The question does not arise.

(e) The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has the following two Schemes for boosting fodder production:

(i) Central Feed and Fodder Development Organisation;

(ii) Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development.

Under the Central Feed and Fodder Development Organisation, the Central and Regional Stations produce fodder seed and undertake training and demonstration. Also fodder minikits are distributed under this programme. An amount of Rs. 18 crores is allocated for the Scheme in the IXth Plan.

Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which assistance is provided to State Governments for the following activities.

- (i) Strengthening of Fodder Seed Production farms;
- (ii) Establishment of fodder banks;
- (iii) Seed Production through registered growers;
- (iv) Enrichment of straw and cellulosic wastes;
- (v) Silvopasture development to increase bio-mass production;
- (vi) Grass land development including grass reserves;
- (vii) Sample survey of area, production and requirement of fodder crops.

An amount of Rs. 40 Crores is allocated for this scheme in the IXth Plan.

[Translation]

Ongoing Irrigation Projects

*51. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken by the Union Government to complete the ongoing major, medium and small irrigation projects in the country expeditiously;

(b) whether the Government have formulated concrete schemes for tapping water resources for irrigation and flood control etc.;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the assistance proposed to be provided to the State Governments for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) Schemes for tapping of water resources for irrigation and flood control are formulated and executed by the respective State Governments according to their own priority. The Central Government render assistance for this purpose which is technical, advisory and recommendatory in nature. Completion of a large number of irrigation and flood control schemes got delayed due to various reasons the most important of them being the paucity of funds with the State Governments. Keeping this in view Central Government launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) during 1996-1997 to provide Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to States for their major/medium irrigation projects with the objective to accelerate the implementation of the projects which are beyond the resource capability of the States or are in an advance stage of completion. The CLA is also being provided to the States by National Agriculture Bank for Rural Development (NABARD) through Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) since 1995-1996 for major/medium/minor/flood control schemes.

[English]

Crop Insurance

*52. SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY:

SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to modify the present Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a special agency under General Insurance Corporation for making present Crop Insurance Scheme (CIS) more effective;

(d) whether there is a proposal to include more crops under this scheme;

- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the scheme is likely to be implemented at Gram Panchayat level;
- (g) whether there is a proposal to replace the existing Experimental Crop Insurance Scheme with a Comprehensive Scheme; and
- (h) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) It is proposed to introduce a Modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (MCCIS) with following salient features:

- (i) It will cover loanee as well as non-loanee farmers;
- (ii) Some more crops in addition to foodgrains, pulses and oilseeds are proposed to be covered;
- (iii) Actuarial premium rates are proposed to be charged to achieve financial viability of the scheme.
- (c) It is proposed to set up a separate agency under the aegis of General Insurance Corporation for the implementation of the scheme.
- (d) and (e) It is proposed to cover some cash crops like sugarcane, potatoes, etc. In the new scheme subject to the availability of the past yield data in addition to the crops covered at present.
- (f) The unit area for the new scheme would be Gram Panchayat, taluka, mandal, etc. as notified by the Implementing State

(g) It is proposed to replace the existing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) and Experimental Crop Insurance Scheme (ECIS) by Modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (MCCIS).

(h) It is proposed to introduce the MCCIS Scheme with effect from Kharif 1999 season.

Terminator Seed

*53. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK:

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Terminator Stares India in the face" appearing in The Hindustan Times dated August 8, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein;

(c) whether there is fear of terminator seed entering India through legal channel;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that terminator gene based seeds do not enter the Indian market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The facts reported in the news item include:

- (i) Farmers and social scientists in India fear that the terminator seed may enter India through legal channels.
- (ii) Monsanto, the American market leader which created the terminator seeds and holds the patent in United States, has entered into a research tie-up with the Bangalore based Indian Institute of Science.
- (iii) If terminator seeds are used in cultivation, the first crop would be like any other but it would not yield seeds that can be used by the farmers for the next season. So, the farmer would have to go to Monsanto each time he wanted to sow a crop, making him completely dependent on the market price mechanisms.
- (iv) The authorities in Indian Institute of Science have stated that the research in terminator seeds is not part of the MOU signed with Monsanto. It will be only on basic research. Besides general issues like quality of nutrition of crops will be examined in the collaboration.
- (v) Once the terminator seed is introduced in the fields, it can spread rapidly. The big farmer may have the money to buy a fresh stock of seeds for his next crop, but the small farmer will go down under.

(c) and (d) There is no fear of terminator seed entering into India through legal channels.

(e) The steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that seeds containing Terminator gene do not enter the Indian market include:

- (i) The Government has issued instructions to all permit issuing authorities to keep strict watch on any likely import of seeds having terminator gene. These authorities have been asked to be extremely careful so that in no case any seed material having terminator gene is imported.
- (ii) There will be only one single point of entry for import of genetically engineering planting material.
- (iii) In the proposed Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Protection legislation, necessary provisions will be made to prohibit seeds with Terminator technology being registered for Plant Breeders Rights.

[Translation]

Pending Schemes Relating to Water Management and Agriculture

*54. DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of schemes relating to water management and boosting of agricultural yield are pending with the Planning Commission for approval;