

(b) if so, the number of schemes pending for approval till September, 1998; and

(c) the amount demanded for each of these schemes and the date on which each of the scheme was submitted to the Commission alongwith the reasons for delay in taking decision thereon?

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) Irrigation and Agriculture, being in the State List of the Constitution, are the State subjects and accordingly, the responsibility of formulation, funding, implementation and management of all types of irrigation including water management schemes primarily rests with the concerned State Governments. As per the existing procedure for clearance of irrigation, flood control and multipurpose project/scheme, no irrigation project or scheme is directly submitted to Planning Commission for investment clearance. The States submit the project/scheme proposals to Central Water Commission for its techno-economic appraisal, which when found in order, is put up to the advisory committee on irrigation, flood control and multi-purpose projects of the Ministry of Water Resources for consideration. After receiving positive recommendation for a project from the Advisory Committee as well as on obtaining all requisite clearances, where required, by the State Govt., the Planning Commission considers such project/scheme for investment clearance. Also, no Minor Irrigation Schemes and medium irrigation project (Not involving any Inter-State river aspect) requires investment clearance of the Planning Commission. Accordingly, no scheme relating to water management and boosting of agricultural yield received from any State is pending for action in the Planning Commission for investment clearance.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

#### **New Internet Policy**

\*55. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced the new Internet Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the same is likely to be implemented;

(c) the estimated number of new employment opportunities likely to be generated as a result thereof;

(d) whether huge capital investment would be required for implementing the new Internet Policy;

(e) if so, the estimate of the total capital investment required;

(f) the sources from which it is likely to be made available; and

(g) the target fixed for receiving capital from each source?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The new Internet Policy was announced on 6.11.1998. The implementation of the same started on the same day, with the signing of four licence agreements. As on date 21 licenses have been signed.

(c) As per the new Internet Policy, Government is giving licences to private companies to provide both Internet content and access services as an Internet Service Provider (ISP). The growth of these services offer a big boom for employment opportunities, in the area of software development for various types of information services on the net.

(d) to (g) The Policy encourages small entrepreneurs to set up their services in a Secondary Switching Area and to provide service only in one town as well as to big companies who can set up services all over India. The investment involved would be in the range of Rs. 10 Lakhs to Rs. 50 Crores. The various sources of required funding, include promoters' own contribution and the external funding by way of equity investment or loans etc. from financial institutions and other investors. Tie-up and arrangement for requisite funds would be done by ISP licensees.

#### **Laghu Krishi Vyavasaya Sangh**

\*56. SHRI RIZWAN ZAHEER KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has also been drawn to the news-item captioned "Utapadakata wa chhote Kisanoan ki aya badane wali yojana adhar mein" appearing in the Rashtriya Sahara, dated November 8, 1998;

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

(c) whether the Government have hang in balance the "Laghu Krishi Vyavasaya Sangh" Scheme which is aimed at increasing productivity and income of small farmers for the last six years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The facts stated in the report point out to the slow implementation of the activities of Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), appointment of new Managing Director since July, 1998, office space for the Society, preparation for the future activities in consultation with the Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and delay in meeting of the Board of Management etc. The benefits that may accrue to farmers in various parts of the country through proper implementation of this Scheme have also been highlighted.

(c) and (d) The facts reported in the news item are not entirely correct. The SFAC has started functioning in its independent Office. The activities undertaken by the Society include promotion of State level SFAC in Kerala; establishment of an Agri-Business Information Centre at Ludhiana in collaboration with Punjab Agro Industries Corporation and organisation of district level Workshops to generate awareness of S.F.A.C. and its activities.

(e) The activities of the Society have been given a fillip by appointment of a fulltime Managing Director since July, 1998. The specific activities aimed at welfare of small and marginal farmers have been identified for implementation.

[English]

#### CTBT

\*57. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to sign Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in the present form;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Prime Minister during his address to General Assembly in UN expressed India's readiness to sign CTBT subject to certain conditions;

(d) if so, the details of those conditions; and

(e) the response of P-5 and G-8 countries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) The Prime Minister in his address to the UN General Assembly stated that India was prepared to bring its discussions with key interlocutors on a range of issues, including the CTBT, to a successful conclusion so that the entry into force of the CTBT was not delayed beyond September 1999. He also stated that India expected other countries mentioned in the Article XIV of the CTBT to adhere to the Treaty without conditions.

(e) Prime Minister's UNGA address has elicited a positive response. The US has announced a partial lifting of unilateral restrictive measures in view of positive steps taken by India. Canada has welcomed India's intention to adhere to the CTBT. France has welcomed PM's UNGA speech. Japan has said that it recognises that the series of policy statements made recently by India constitute progress.

#### Production of Foodgrains

\*58. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:

SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the flood and untimely rains has affected the overall prospects of foodgrain production this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the country is likely to face food shortage by 2000 AD;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the preventive measures taken or being taken by the Government to meet the shortage of foodgrains for the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Due to the floods and untimely rains in certain parts of the country, the Kharif foodgrains production for 1998-99 has been marginally affected. But, with the chances of better Rabi crops on account of favourable weather conditions, better reservoir situation, good pace of sowings and adequate availability of inputs, the prospects for overall food production during 1998-99 are brighter.

(c) to (e) There is no shortage of food foreseen by 2000 AD as the overall foodgrains production during the decade of nineties has been maintaining a growth at par with population growth. In order to increase the production and productivity of various foodgrains in the country, the Government is implementing crop specific development programmes and schemes in which incentives are provided to farmers for use of quality seeds and location specific hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and improved farm implements. Besides, field demonstrations on farmers holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Government is also providing price and market support to the farmers by announcing the Minimum Support Prices for major foodgrains crops and making arrangements for the procurement through the nodal agencies. The subsidised supply of fertilisers encourages its consumption for maintaining growth of foodgrains production. In its National Agenda for governance, the Government proposes to give a fresh thrust to all programmes aimed at doubling the food production in next ten years by adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

#### Siachen Issue

\*59. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

SHRI T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pakistan shuts out ceasefire on Siachen" appearing in Statesman (Calcutta Edition) dated November 7, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported thereon; and

(c) the fresh initiatives taken by the Government to resolve the Siachen issue?

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