

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The compound growth rates of major crops in India during the last 10 years (1987-97) have been higher than the world's average as worked out from the data published in FAO's Production Year Books. The details are given in the Table below:

| Period  | Name of the Crop | Annual (%) Compound Growth Rate |       |
|---------|------------------|---------------------------------|-------|
|         |                  | India                           | World |
| 1987-97 | Wheat            | 4.10                            | 1.16  |
|         | Rice/Paddy       | 2.62                            | 1.73  |
|         | Sugarcane        | 3.72                            | 2.31  |
|         | Cotton (Lint)    | 9.28                            | 1.43  |

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government is implementing various Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector crop specific schemes relating to rice, wheat, coarse cereals, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, jute, sugarcane, fruits and vegetables etc.

[English]

#### NCDC

625. SHRI K.P. MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Expert Group has recommended financial and administrative restructure of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) to widen its activities and strengthen its financial base;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the economic liberalisation and resource crunch have affected the working of developing financial institutions; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures proposed to revitalise the institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) An expert group headed by Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation was set up with following terms of reference;

- (i) To examine the financial position of NCDC;
- (ii) To review the schemes for which assistance is being provided by NCDC;
- (iii) To recommend suitable changes in the schemes of NCDC keeping in view the emerging agricultural situation;
- (iv) To identify key areas in agriculture and allied activities where greater thrust is to be given by NCDC; and
- (v) To make recommendations for revitalising the NCDC and on any other relevant issues.

The above Group has since submitted its report and the same is under examination.

[Translation]

#### Projects for Approval

626. SHRI JAYSINGHJI CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the Department of Animal Husbandry, Gujarat which are lying pending with the Union Government for approval since 1996;

(b) the reasons for the delay in taking any decision; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No proposal received since 1996 from Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Gujarat, is pending with Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### Employment in Fisheries

627. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investment worth thousands of crores of rupees in fisheries and the employment of at least two lakh people are in peril due to the harassment caused by environmentalist groups;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take for making environmentalists favourable to the fisheries:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 11.12.1996 on Writ Petition (C) 561 of 1994 regarding setting up of shrimp farms in coastal areas ordered closure of all the shrimp farms set up within the Coastal Regulation Zone, except farms practising traditional and improved traditional culture. The Court also directed setting up of an Authority to protect the ecologically fragile areas and especially to deal with the situation created by the Shrimp Culture Industry. A Review Petition has been filed seeking review of the judgement and the matter is sub-judice. Meanwhile an Aquaculture Authority has been set up in pursuance of the directives of the Supreme Court to perform the functions indicated in the Supreme Court's judgement. The Authority has held several meetings at different coastal States and has discussed the various issues concerning shrimp culture with State Government officials, environmental groups, experts in the field as well as shrimp farmers in order to evolve suitable measures for eco-friendly development of shrimp culture.

#### Review of Embassies

628. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: