

(c) the number of villages proposed to be provided with the telephone facility during 1998-99;

(d) the reasons for not providing such facility in the remaining villages; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for providing said facility in all the villages of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) :  
(a) 535 villages have been provided with telephone facility.

(b) 657 villages are yet to be provided with telephone facility.

(c) 232 villages have been proposed to be provided with telephone facility during 1998-99.

(d) and (e) Telephone facilities are being provided progressively in all villages, and all villages will be covered by the year 2002. For remote and inaccessible villages satellite media will be used.

#### **Excessive Use of Chemical Fertilizers**

649. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fertility of soil have eroded due to over extraction of ground water and excessive use of fertilizers by the farmers;

(b) if so, the extent of soil erosion taking place in the country at the end of each Five Year Plan period;

(c) the effect of soil erosion in agriculture produces; and

(d) the corrective measures likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Over extraction of ground water results in lowering of water table which in turn may also cause disturbance in nutrient balance in the soil profile. Soil erosion due to excessive rains and floods results into reduction of soil fertility and productivity. Fertiliser use continues to give response in crop production. The average nutrient consumption (NPK) was 87 kg./hectare during 1997-98 as against the consumption of 345 kg, nutrient per hectare in Egypt, 135 kg. in Bangla Desh, 375 kg. in Japan and 113 kg. per hectare in Pakistan. As such there is no excessive use of fertilisers in the country. However, in areas where high amounts of fertilisers are being used, the deficiencies of secondary and micronutrients particularly sulphur zinc and iron have started appearing which indicate imbalance in the total nutrient supply to the crops. Governments is therefore, taking steps to promote the use of secondary and micronutrients also.

(b) and (c) The estimated soil loss through water erosion in the country at the end of each Five Year period is 26.5 billion

tonnes of Top soil which may result in the loss of around 40 million tonnes of plant nutrients. Soil erosion does affect the productivity of the soil which in turn results in loss of production.

(d) The corrective measures are being taken by adopting soil conservation practices like promoting agro-forestry, land shaping/levelling, erection of diversion bunds, graded terracing and trenches. Other package of practices have been developed to check runoff losses, such as integrated bioengineering measures, mulching and contour bunding which have proved successful in checking soil erosion.

#### **Setting up of IBM Institute**

650. SMT. LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an American Company International Business Machines has come forward to set up an International Business Machines institute in collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh Government;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been signed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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) to (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has signed two Agreement with Tata-IBM Limited to set up the "IBM School of Enterprise-Wide Computing" at Hyderabad. It will be an independent, autonomous non-profit, viable and self sustaining institution aimed at promoting the concept of electronic government. The primary activities of such a Centre would be to function as a think tank on issues of concern for effective use of IT for good governance to identify the best practices and to showcase the finest information technology based applications in governance and to provide training for policy makers and key implementation personnel.

#### **Biological Control of Pests**

651. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent during 1996-97 and 1997-98 on the research work in regard to biological control of pests;

(b) the progress made so far in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage farmers to go in for biological control of pests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The expenditure on research work on Biological Control of pests in the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 was Rupees 206.50 lakhs and 835.84 lakhs respectively. This includes expenditure on the schemes under plan, non-plan and ad-hoc cess fund.

(b) Success in biological control has been achieved for control of major pests of a number of crops. Control of Pyrilla and

top borer of sugarcane, mealy bug of coffee, lepidopterous pests affecting cotton, tobacco, coconut, sugarcane, vegetables and fruits are a few examples where success has been achieved through the release of bio-control agents. A major achievement has been the development of mass rearing technology for biotic agents such as Trichogramma, Chrysoperla and nuclear polyhedrosis viruses (NPV) of Heliothis and Spodoptera. Spectacular success has also been achieved in biological control of two aquatic weeds, viz., the water hyacinth and the water fern.

(c) The Government has taken following steps to encourage farmers for adoption of biological control of pests :

(i) Integrated Pest Management (IMP) inter-alia includes biological control methods is being promoted in the country;

(ii) Farmers' Field Schools on IPM and IPM demonstrations on Rice, Cotton, Pulses, Oilseeds, Vegetables etc. are being organised to train farmers in the identification conservation and augmentation of biological control agents; and

(iii) Training of farmers in production of biological control agents and their utilisation.

[Translation]

#### Flood Control

652. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an agreement between the Government of Nepal and India regarding water sharing and flood control;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rivers of eastern U.P. were flooded this year due to extra release of water by the Government of Nepal;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to conduct an enquiry in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) India and Nepal entered into an agreement in April, 1954 (revised in December, 1966) for construction of a barrage on Kosi river. Another agreement in December, 1959 (revised in April, 1964) was entered into for construction of a barrage on Gandak river. Both the barrages lie near the Indo-Nepal border and had been in operation for the last three decades. These barrages serve the purpose of irrigation and hydropower generation benefitting both the countries. During February, 1996 India and Nepal signed a Treaty on Integrated Development of Mahakali river for which the centrepiece is the Pancheshwar multipurpose project proposed to be located on Mahakali river at a stretch which forms the boundary between the two countries. Irrigation

and hydropower benefits are envisaged from this project for both the countries and for which a detailed project report is under preparation jointly by India and Nepal.

(c) and (d) Due to heavy rainfall in upper catchments of Ghaghra and Rapti, both the rivers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh experienced heavy floods this year. The floods were not due to extra release of water by the Government of Nepal, as there are no major storages in Nepal on these rivers.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

#### Production of Vegetables

653. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:

SHRI RAMANAN SINGH:

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the annual production of onion, potato, tomato in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the production of the above items during the current year;

(c) whether the shortage of the above commodities is due to the low production or any other reason;

(d) whether the government provide seeds, fertilizers, loans and pesticides to increase the production of the above items; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to bridge the demands and supply gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The annual production of onion and potato during last three years and during the current year at all India level is given as under:

(Lakh tonnes)

Year	Onion	Potato
1995-96	40.80	188.43
1996-97	42.28	250.65
1997-98**	36.80	192.00
1998-99*	44.50	235.62

\*Rough estimates \*\*Advance estimates

The production estimates of tomato are officially not compiled. However, as per the data available from the national Horticulture Board, the production of tomato is estimated to be as under: