

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:

	(Lakh tonnes)
1993-94	49.34
1994-95	52.61
1995-96	54.42

(c) The shortage of these commodities is mainly due to low production on account of erratic monsoon, pre-winter rains and floods in several parts of the country.

(d) and (e) The Government is implementing two central sector schemes namely; (i) production and supply of vegetable seeds and (ii) development of root and tuber crops for increasing the production and productivity of vegetables and root and tuber crops.

These schemes includes development of onion, potato and tomato. In order to bridge the gap between demand and supply, the Government has banned the export of onion and put it on OGL at zero rate of duty.

Earthquake

654. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh had demanded the financial assistance of Rs. 2960.32 crore from the Union Government to provide relief to the farmers affected by the natural calamities (earthquake) against which only Rs. 67.76 crore had been given from the National Calamity Fund; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities from the allocation under Calamity Relief fund (CRF). In addition to CRF, assistance is provided to the States from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the event of calamities of rare severity. In response to the Memorandum submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh seeking assistance of Rs. 248.75 crore from the NFCR, a Central Team visited the State for assessment of the situation. Based on the report of the Central Team and recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Group thereon, an assistance of Rs. 45.26 crore was approved from the NFCR and this amount was released to the State Government.

[English]

Foreign Tour

655. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the foreign tours undertaken by him during 1998;

(b) the leaders of each country with whom he had talks and the nature of talks held with each of them;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total expenditure incurred on each visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Survey of Live stock

656. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a survey has been conducted in Gujarat about live stock;

(b) if so, the details of present population of cattle particularly those of milching;

(c) the details of cross breed cattle in the State; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the number and breed of live stock in the State by the Central and State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes Sir. The last quinquennial livestock census was conducted in Gujarat in 1992.

(b) As per the 1992 livestock census there are 68 lakh cattle in Gujarat out of which milching cattle are 20 lakh.

(c) The number of crossbred cattle in Gujarat is 2.33 lakh out of which 1.21 lakh are crossbred milching cattle.

(d) To improve the number and breed of livestock in the State, a number of Central/State Government programmes/schemes are being implemented in the State. The important schemes are as follows:

(i) Extension of Frozen Semen Technology and Progeny Testing Programme.

(ii) National Bull Production Programme.

(iii) Integrated Dairy Development Project in Non-Operation flood, Hilly and Backward Areas.

(iv) Special Livestock Breeding Programme.

[Translations]

Redressal of Grievances in MTNL

657. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'MTNL Ke CGM Ka Gherao' appearing in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated October 17, 1998;