

Foodgrains Production

17. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the year-wise foodgrains produce for the last three years and the target fixed therefor for the Ninth Five Year Plan to meet the food requirement in the country; and

(b) the details of the measures being taken and programmes prepared by the Government to meet the shortage of foodgrains for the coming five to ten years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The production of foodgrains during 1994-95 to 1997-98 is as follows :

(Million Tonnes)

1994-95	191.5
1995-96	180.4
1996-97	199.3
1997-98 (Likely)	194.1

As per Draft Document for Ninth Plan the target of foodgrains production for the terminal year i.e. 2001-2002 of the Ninth Five Year Plan has been indicated at 231 million tonnes.

(b) To increase the productivity and production of foodgrains in the country, various Crop Development Programmes viz., ICDP-Rice, ICDP-Wheat and ICDP-Coarse Cereals, National Pulses Development Projects and Accelerated Maize Development Programme are being implemented. Besides this, Minikit Programme of Rice, Wheat and coarse Cereals are also being implemented in the country to popularise the cultivation of location specific high yielding varieties/hybrids of seeds of various crops so as to increase the productivity and thereby production of various foodgrain crops.

2. The steps being taken to increase the production include increased area coverage under high yielding varieties/hybrids, increasing the water use efficiency through adoption of Sprinkler irrigation system in some crops, adoption of improved crop production technologies etc. The above programmes are likely to continue in the coming five to ten years with required modifications to meet the growing demand of foodgrains. Besides, a new centrally sponsored scheme "Efficient onfarm water management" is also being proposed for the 9th Five Year Plan for the development of minor irrigation resources through installation of tubewells and lift points, in eastern region of the country.

English]

International Ocean Year

18. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India also joined in celebration of International Year of Ocean being celebrated worldwide in 1998:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to intensify the research in the field of ocean exploration?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The United Nations General Assembly has declared the year 1998 as the International Year of the Ocean (IYO) through a Resolution adopted in December, 1994. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO is the international agency coordinating the activities of IYO.

The IYO provides an opportunity for the Governments, organisations and individuals to focus and reinforce their attention on the importance of the ocean, its resources and environment to support the life and climate systems on the Earth. The Department of Ocean Development with the inter-Departmental consultations has organised/proposed to organise, among others, the following activities in India :

- (i) *Printing of message of IYO on the Postal stationery:* Work has been taken up to print the message of IYO on two million inland Letters in each of the regional languages in addition to English and Hindi, through the Department of Posts. Department of Posts have also been requested to bring out a special stamp carrying the message of IYO.
- (ii) All the Central Laboratories and organisations dealing with oceans have been advised to organise functions on IYO.
- (iii) The state-of-the-art Oceanographic Research Vessel Sagar Kanya was kept open to students from the schools in Goa to create interest in Ocean Sciences.
- (iv) Ministry of Human Resource Development has advised all associated schools and UNESCO clubs for observing the IYO.
- (v) Conducting an international cruise of the Oceanographic Research Vessel Sagar Kanya from Goa to Port Louis to gather data on radiation and aerosol chemistry over the Tropical Indian Ocean. (Completed)
- (vi) India is taking part in the Lisbon Expo '98 which has its main theme; "The Oceans -- A Heritage for the Future".
- (vii) Depending upon the suitability of weather and launching advantages, the Department of Space is considering to launch an Ocean Satellite during the year 1998.