

	Damage to crops (Lakh lectares)	loss to human lives (nos.)	Damage to houses (Rs. crore)	Damages to public utilities (Rs. crores)
Bihar	6.34	96	13.354	27.684
Uttar Pradesh	11.76	273	33.000	74.108

(c) to (e) Planning, investigation and implementation of schemes for checking soil erosion including its assessment is within the purview of respective states. Ganga Flood Control Commission has prepared Comprehensive Plans for all the river systems in Ganga Basin including Sone and main Ganga by the Year 1990. The Comprehensive Plans suggested short term and long term measures for flood management as well as to check soil erosion. These Comprehensive Plans have been sent to all Ganga Basin States including Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for preparation of detailed schemes and their implementation, in accordance with priority perceived by these States based on the Plan funds available with them.

[English]

#### Central Secretariat Service

1700. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Under Secretaries of Central Secretariat Service in various Ministries/Departments belonging to SC/ST categories in position before issue of O.M No. 21/48/97-CS.I dated September 28, 1998 by Department of Personnel and Training;

(b) whether a number of officers belonging to SC category have been shown as promoted in the list of 225 CSS officers whereas these officers have either died or retired; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

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) As per the information received from the various Ministries/Departments, the number of concerned Under Secretaries belonging to SC/ST categories in position before the issue of O.M. No. 21/48/97-CS.I dated September 28, 1998, stood at 148.

(b) and (c) Information about only two SC officers, who had either died/retired was brought to notice by the concerned Ministries after the issue of the O.M. dated 28.9.1998. The O.M. was issued based on information already collected from the various Ministries from time to time.

#### 5-Point Plan on Agriculture

1701. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "PM unveils 5-point plan on Agriculture" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated November 7, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of the facts of matter report therein; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented alongwith the fund allocated for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Five Point Action Plan unveiled by Prime Minister during four day "Agro Advantage-Maharashtra Conference" included the following:

(1) Evolving Small Farmers Agro-Business Consortium (SFAC) into a high level co-ordination body at the centre and in the states to promote corporate investments in agri business covering public sector, private sector, co-operatives etc.

(2) Strengthening of Forward Markets Commission to promote forward deals in more commodities.

(3) Promoting joint ventures abroad to expand trade in farm produce.

(4) Unveiling a National Rural Co-operative Policy and enactment of the long pending Multi State Co-operative Act.

(5) Promotion of Information Technology in agriculture and agro business in a big way.

(c) No specific time frame has been set for the completion of these tasks thus far.

[Translation]

#### Most Favoured Nation Status to India

1702. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has agreed to give most favoured nation status to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefit likely to accrue after getting this status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In accordance with its obligations under the WTO Pakistan is required to extend Most Favoured Nation Status to India. During the recent discussion with Pakistan on the subject of Economic and Commercial Co-operation held