

in New Delhi on 10th November, 1998, as a part of composite dialogue process, we urged Pakistan to fulfill this obligation which will enhance trade and commerce between the two countries for mutual benefit.

[*English*]

#### **Oilseeds Production**

1703. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Research and Development work is undertaken by Agricultural Research Institutes in Bihar for boosting the production of oilseeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount spent by these research institutes in Bihar during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In Bihar, All India Coordinated Research Projects on Oilseeds are currently in operation in both agricultural universities of the state, i.e., RAU, Pusa Samastipur and BAU, Kanke, Ranchi for generating location specific production technology for increasing the production and productivity of oilseed crops in the state. Currently, the All India Coordinated Projects on Rapeseed Mustard, Soyabean and other oilseed crops are in operation at different centres in the state.

As a result of the intensive research on oilseeds, in the state through All India Coordinated Projects and the State Agricultural Universities, a number of improved varieties have been developed and recommended for cultivation in the State. Technology related to crop production and management of insect pest and diseases have also been developed and recommended for adoption to the farmers of the state.

Development programmes by Government of India for dissemination of technology is undertaken through frontline demonstrations and centrally sponsored schemes on oilseed production currently in operation under Technology Mission on oilseeds and pulses (TMOP).

(c) The total amount spent on research through the network of all-India Coordinated Research Project currently in operation in both agricultural universities in Bihar is Rs. 32.35 lakhs in the last three years. Similarly, the amount spent on development activities related to oilseed production-programmes in the State under centrally sponsored scheme on oilseed production is Rs. 171.78 lakhs in the last three years.

[*Translation*]

#### **Protein in Potatoes**

1704. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR 'BIJOY': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether agro-scientists of Jawaharlal Nehru University have developed potatoes having the quantity of protein;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to provide the seed of the said potatoes to the farmers of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMAPL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Agro-Scientists of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi have developed transgenic potato with high nutritional quality in terms of amino acid content. They isolated a gene from seeds of *Amaranthus hypochondriacus* which encodes a protein rich in all essential amino acids. Introduction of the gene in transgenic potato resulted in increase in all essential amino acids at varying levels.

(c) The transgenic potato variety will be available after thorough field trial and testing for biosafety measure as per Government guidelines.

[*English*]

#### **Sea Erosion in Kerala**

1705. SHRI P. SANKARAN:

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the severe problem of sea erosion along the coast of Kerala;

(b) if so, the quantum of assistance given to Kerala for coastal protection during the last three years;

(c) the funds earmarked during the Ninth Five Year Plan for the State for coastal protection;

(d) whether any fund has been released to the State during the current Ninth Five Year Plan;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether there is any plan to use modern technologies to check coastal erosion in Kerala; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) During the last three years (1995-96 to 1997-98) Planning Commission has released an amount of Rs. 3 crore as special Central assistance to Government of Kerala for undertaking coastal protection works of emergent nature at the request of the State Government.

(c) The agreed outlay for Flood Control (including anti-sea-erosion) for the State of Kerala for the Ninth Plan is Rs. 88 crore.

(d) and (e) No Central assistance was released to Government of Kerala during the current Five Year Plan as the States are required to undertake anti-sea-erosion works out of the State plan funds.