

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.

(f) and (g) The National Protection Project under preparation in Central Water Commission envisages a scheme to acquire modern technologies for adoption by the maritime States including Kerala.

Reduction of Nuclear Danger

1706. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had introduced a resolution in the UN General Assembly in the first week of November this year on reducing nuclear danger;

(b) if so, the details of the resolution; and

(c) the response of the different nuclear powers thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At India's initiative a new resolution was introduced in the UN General Assembly in November this year. The resolution recalls that as the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to mankind, the hair trigger alert status of nuclear weapons maintained by some countries carries unacceptable risks of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons. The resolution further calls upon the five Nuclear-Weapon States to review their nuclear doctrines and take immediate and urgent steps to reduce the risk of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons. The resolution urges Member States to take necessary measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to promote nuclear disarmament with the ultimate objective of eliminating nuclear weapons.

(c) US, France, UK and Russia voted against while China abstained on the resolution.

[Translation]

Bansagar Inter-State Project

1707. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have been providing their respective shares in schedule time for Bansagar inter-State project being constructed in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if not, action being taken by the Union Government against those State Government;

(c) the expenditure incurred on the construction of Barage, Canal and power plant of the projects separately;

(d) the budgetary provisions made available by Union Government for the year 1998-99 for the purpose; and

(e) the time by which this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No. The Governments

of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have not been providing their respective shares in schedule time for Bansagar inter-State project being constructed in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The status of contribution of share cost by the partner States is discussed in the regular meetings of the Executive Committee of Bansagar Control Board in which the representatives of the States and Union Government are members. During the 58th meeting held on 23.10. 1998, the executive Committee discussed the issue and keeping in view that Uttar Pradesh has now paid its due share, decided that the Government of Bihar may be appraised about the balance amount of Rs. 74.33 crores and expedited to pay the same.

(c) The expenditure incurred upto October, 1998 on the construction of Bansagar Project is detailed below:

(i) Dam (Barrage) including	
land acquisition	
and rehabilitation	- Rs.553.62 crores
(ii) Canals	- Rs. 144.92 crores
(iii) Power plants	- Rs. 590. 56 crores

(d) The Union Government does not make any budgetary provisions for this project. However, central loan assistance is being provided under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme for which an amount of Rs. 75 crores during the year 1998-99 has been recommended.

(e) Likely completion date for the Dam is June, 2001 and canals by 2012.

Production of Fissile Material

1708. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have briefed America about India's stand regarding one-sided sanction on production of fissile material;

(b) whether America and its supporters European countries have put a ban on the trade with India in the aftermath of nuclear explosions by India;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to review this decision and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The ongoing dialogue with the United States covers a range of issues, including disarmament and non-proliferation, India's security concerns and the positive voluntary measures announced by India. Government have also stated that India would participate constructively in negotiations for a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning future production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. India will pay serious attention to any other multilateral initiatives