

like RG8, RS875, IRA5166, Angoli, LHH-144, LD-491, LD327, LD230, DS-1 and G-27.

2. Central Efforts:

- (i) Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) had made concerted efforts to provide input on LCV disease management viz. identification of disease resistant varieties vector management by application of most effective pesticides and neem based formulations, advocating clean cultivation of cotton etc.
- (ii) Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) in the States of Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan have actively promoted various integrated strategies to contain the LCV disease of cotton.

[English]

Safeguarding India's Interests

2926. DR. SUSHIL INDORA :
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether India has engaged some firms in America for lobbying to safeguard and further India's interests;

(b) if so, the names of such firms and the amount being paid to them annually for this purpose;

(c) whether the Government have made similar arrangements in other countries also; and

(d) if so, the countries where such arrangements have been made and amount which is spent on them annually?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Embassy of India in Washington has, since 1993, had lobbying arrangements to project our point of view in order to safeguard and further India's interests. This is accepted practice in the United States. Lobbying firms are appointed for periodic intervals after making a careful assessment of our requirements.

(b) Currently, we have two firms namely M/s Verner Lipfert (VL) and M/s APCO to provide the Embassy with the lobbying support. An amount of US \$ 50,000 per month to Verner Lipfert and US \$ 25,000 per month to APCO is being paid for their services. The contracts of these firms will continue till end December 1998.

(c) We do not have these arrangements with other countries.

(d) Does not arise.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Rainfed Farming

2927. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally sponsored schemes for rainfed farming under internationally aided projects included in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the area likely to be selected first;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) There is no such scheme under internationally aided projects.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Board/Committee for Agricultural Products

2928. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI RAM PAL UPADHYAY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up any board or committee for fixing prices of agriculture products;

(b) if so, whether representatives of the farmers have also been included in the above board or committee;

(c) if so, the number thereof during the last three years; and

(d) the norms for fixing the prices of agriculture products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government had set up a Commission in January, 1965 by the name Agricultural Prices Commission to advise on a continuing basis on agricultural price policy and price structure in the context of the need to raise agricultural production and give relief to the consumer. Its name was