

**Flood Prone Areas**

\*354. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the loss suffered due to floods and droughts in the country at the end of each Five Year Plan;

(b) whether floods and droughts prone areas are increasing at the end of each Five Year Plan period;

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

(d) the plan of action to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Details indicating that the Plan-wise loss suffered due to floods at 1981-82 prices, as reported by the Central Water Commission, are enclosed in the statement. According to the Ministry of Water Resources, the Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) has assessed the flood prone areas of the country as 40 million hectares. The statistics on flood affected areas do not indicate any increase from the above assessment made by the RBA. However, the area affected due to floods depends upon a number of factors such as intensity of rainfall, its distribution in time and space, population density, forest cover, soil and topography of the region etc. Investigation, planning and implementation of flood management schemes are within the purview of the respective State Governments. The Centre renders assistance which is advisory in nature. The Centre also provides financial assistance to carry out important flood management works in the State of Assam and border States of Northern as well as North Eastern India. Central assistance is also being provided to North Bihar for carrying out flood proofing programme.

It has been reported by the Central Water Commission and Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment that no such survey regarding Drought Prone Areas has been carried out. However, according to a study made by Central Water Commission during 1975-82, the area affected by drought in the country is 51.12 million hectares spread over 315 taluks in 74 districts. Efforts are reportedly made under the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) to mitigate the adverse effects of drought and prevent any loss to the nation. The Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment is implementing DPAP since 1973-74 in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The programme is monitored on a regular basis through review meetings with the concerned States. As per information recieved from various states, the estimated value of damage to crops during the last five years is indicated below:-

(Rs. in Lakhs)	
1994-95	8286.00
1995-96	451652.03
1996-97	141055.00
1997-98	44524.95
1998-99	2867.61

**Statement****Flood Damage in India During 1953 to 1996**

(Rs. in Crore)

S. No.	Plan Period	Total Damage to Crops, Houses and Public Utilities (1981-82 Prices)
1.	First Plan (1953-56)	1395.90
2.	Second Plan (1956-61)	1525.96
3.	Third Plan (1961-66)	1109.89
4.	Annual Plans (1966-69)	1438.77
5.	Fourth Plan (1969-74)	5344.56
6.	Fifth Plan (1974-78)	4974.88
7.	Annual Plans (1978-80)	3047.68
8.	Sixth Plan (1980-85)	7660.36
9.	Seventh Plan (1985-90)	12410.09
10.	Annual Plans (1990-92)	1678.80
11.	Eighth Plan (1992-97)	2623.66

*[Translation]***Y-2K Problem**

\*355. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to solve the problem of Y-2K in computer;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of research made in this regard?

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) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has worked out a plan of action for addressing the Y-2K problem. These include encouraging various institutions to provide specialized training on Y-2K solutions, sensitizing various users in government departments and organisations as well as private sector about the problem and the need to take steps in time to solve the problem. The Department of Electronics has issued : 'Year 2000 Survival : A Practitioner's Guide' to all concerned and jointly with the software industry has also brought out a directory of Indian Y-2K solution providers and publicized Y2K on web page on Internet. The Government of India has constituted a High Level Empowered Action Force on managing the Impact of Year 2000 problem in India under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission.

[English]

#### Brackishwater Aquaculture

\*356. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are implementing Central Schemes on Brackishwater Aquaculture in the country particularly in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the other Central Government Schemes proposed to be implemented in the States for enhancing production of fish and raising the living standard of fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, "Development of Integrated Coastal Aquaculture", a package of financial, technical and extension support is provided to the small-scale shrimp farmers through 39 Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BFDAs) set up in all the coastal States of the country and the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. BFDAs have been set up in the Districts of Valsad, Bharuch and Surat in Gujarat. A subsidy of Rs. 30,000/- per hectare of water area is provided to the beneficiaries for developmental costs and inputs. Assistance of Rupees one lakh per hatchery or 10 per cent of the cost, whichever is lower is given for prawn seed hatcheries of 2-5 million capacity per annum. Trainees are provided stipend @ Rs. 25/- per day and travelling allowance limited to Rs. 140/- per trainee for two months training.

(c) The following Central Sector/Central Sponsored Schemes which are in operation at present would continue to be implemented for enhancing production of fish and raising the living standard of fishermen:

i) Development of Freshwater Aquaculture through Fish Farmers' Development Agencies.

- ii) Development of Marine Fisheries through Motorisation Programme and Reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on HSD oil supplied to Fishing Vessels below 20 metre length.
- iii) Fishing Harbour Facilities at Major and Minor Ports
- iv) Training and Extension Scheme.
- v) National Welfare of fishermen through Group Accident Insurance of Fishermen, Development of Model Fishermen Villages and Saving-cum-Relief programme.

[Translation]

#### Anti Tank Missile Developed by Pakistan

357. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that recently Pakistan has successfully tested newly developed anti-tank missile name Bhakhtar Shikan equipped with a capacity to attack its target even in darkness;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto and steps taken to counter this threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) Government has seen reports in the Pakistan media that an anti-tank guided missile with a night vision capability has been tested by Pakistan in November, 1998. This has been described by Pakistan as "Bhakhtar Shikan". Government closely monitors and continuously assesses all developments with regard to Pakistan's missile programme. Government remains fully committed to effectively safeguarding the country's security in keeping with us its assessment of the national security requirements.

[English]

#### Cyber Laws

\*358. SHRI R. S. GAVAI :

SHRI MAGANTI BABU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enact a comprehensive cyber law aimed at legitimising electronic communication and dealing with cyber crimes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of present laws likely to be amended for the purpose;