

(c) the average annual production of those countries vis-a-vis India;

(d) whether 25 to 40 per cent of the production of fruits and vegetables in India gets perished; and

(e) if so, the reasons for such high magnitude of wastage in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (e) Information in being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Crop Insurance Scheme

4039. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have released Rs. 81.97 crore to the Government of Andhra Pradesh under the crop insurance scheme for the current year;

(b) whether the State Government had also initiated an action plan for the ongoing agriculture season at a cost of Rs. 150 crore;

(c) if so, the extent to which the agriculture production in the State of Andhra Pradesh has gone up as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the production of agriculture in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Total claims to Rs. 81.97 crores for Kharif 1997 season for Andhra Pradesh were settled by the Government.

(b) Yes, Sir. Initially the Government of Andhra Pradesh decided to implement the Comprehensive Agricultural Development Programme (CADP) at an estimated cost of Rs. 151.69 crores. But during the current financial year (1998-99), the scheme has been revised and is being implemented at a cost of Rs. 131.00 crores.

(c) On implementation of CADP in 1998-99 in the State, the production of major crops such as Rice, Maize and Redgram is likely to increase as follows :

(i) Rice 70.00 lakh MTs as against the normal production of 51.90 lakh MTs.

(ii) Maize 8.77 lakh MTs as against the normal production of 7.42 lakh MTs.

(iii) Redgram 1.18 lakh MTs as against the normal production of 1.00 lakh MT.

(d) Following steps are being taken by the State Government to improve the agricultural production in Andhra Pradesh :-

— Agricultural extension and training programmes like on-farm Extension Demonstrations; Agricultural Market Committee (AMC) Level Training Programmes to farmers; Farmers's Interaction Training Programmes at AMC level under CADP; Kisan Melas organized by the State Agricultural University; Mandal Level Farmers Information and Guidance Centres and setting up of Soil Testing Laboratories at revenue divisional level, are implemented to strengthen the agricultural extension work in the State.

— It has been decided to create additional irrigation potential of Rs. 7.32 lakh hac. during IX Plan.

— Promoting Sprinklers and Drip Irrigation and Watershed Development in Dryland Areas etc.

— Implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

— Conducting Season Long Training Programme (SLTP) and setting up of Biological Control Laboratories (BCL) as a part of IPM.

— Making available quality seeds through Seed Village Programme.

— Supply of quality inputs through strict vigil on quality control.

To supplement the efforts of the State Government for increasing the agricultural production, the following Crop Production Oriented schemes are being implemented by the Government of India:

(a) Integrated Cereals Development Programme for Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice)

(b) Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP)

(c) Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems (SUBACS)

(d) Special Jute Development Programme.

[Translation]

Proportionate Profits

4040. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give proportionate profits of the agricultural products as given on the industrial products; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Government fixes each season the minimum support prices (MSPs) of major agricultural commodities on the basis of the report of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of the State Governments and the Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors which, in the opinion of the Government, are important for fixation of prices.

While formulating its recommendations on price policy, the CACP considers various important factors, viz, cost of production; changes in input prices; input/output price parity; trends in market prices; demand and supply situation; inter-crop price parity; effect on industrial cost structure; effect on general price level; effect on cost of living; international market price situation; and parity between prices paid and prices received (terms of trade). The MSPs fixed by the Government not only cover cost of production, but also a reasonable margin of profit as an incentive to the farmers to invest and improve production and productivity. Moreover, the farmers are free to sell their produce in the open market at prices which may be higher than the support prices fixed by the Government.

[English]

Agreement with Belgium

4041. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

SHRI D. S. AHIRE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Belgium Prince Philippe visited India during the month of November, 1998;
- (b) if so, the dignitaries with whom Prince Philippe had talks and nature of talks held with each of them;
- (c) whether any agreement has been signed with Belgium; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Crown Prince Philippe of Belgium visited India at the invitation of the Vice President from November 22-28, 1998.

(b) The Crown Prince called on the President and the Vice President. He also held discussions with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Commerce and the Minister of Power. In Mumbai, the Crown Prince met the Governor and the Minister of Trade & Commerce of Maharashtra. In Hyderabad, the Crown Prince met the Governor and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

Wide ranging and useful discussions were held on a number of issues relating to India-Belgium relations, especially in the economic and commercial field, as well as on important international developments.

(c) and (d) No bilateral government-to-government agreements were signed during this visit. However, the following MOUs/cooperation agreements were signed, as per the details given below, between Belgian and Indian partners during the visit.

- (i) MOU between Ahlers Bridge on Belgium and Forbes Gokak Ltd. of TATA group to offer European exporters in India and Indian exporters in Europe, facilities and cost effective logistical and distribution services in the ports of Mumbai and Antwerp.
- (ii) MOU between UCB of Belgium and RCF of India for setting up a joint venture to produce methylamines and their derivatives.
- (iii) MOU between Ion Beam International (IBA) of Belgium and SAHA Institute of Nuclear Physics and the variable Energy Cyclotron Centre on the setting up of a medical cyclotron in Calcutta.
- (iv) A Cooperation agreement between the Belgo-Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- (v) A Cooperation agreement between the Belgo-Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Indian-Belgo Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Gross Domestic Product

4042. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Union Government have projected a fiscal deficit at 5% of gross domestic product during the Ninth Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Union Government also propose to scale down the target for export growth during the said period from 14.5% to 11.8% annually; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE