

credit particularly to small & marginal farmers; strengthening the input distribution system, expansion of the integrated pest management and nutrient management programmes; taking up special programmes by the States Seeds Corporations to meet quality seeds requirement of the farmers, strict enforcement of the existing provision of the Insecticides Act to ensure supply of quality pesticides and widening the scope of the existing Crop Insurance Scheme to cover more crops.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of farmers is so bad that they were compelled to commit suicide...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is another question. Please take your seats.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I want to know from the Government that what action is proposed to be taken to conduct an enquiry to find out the causes which compelled the farmers to commit suicide and what steps have been taken to prevent the farmers in other States from committing suicide?

12.00 hrs.

What steps do the Government propose to take to provide all the resources like irrigation, seeds, loans, crop insurance etc. to the farmers so that the farmers are not compelled to commit suicide...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the suicide committed by the farmers...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is another question. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not given opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMPAL: MR. Speaker, Sir, regarding the question of Prof. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji, the Government had sent two study groups to study such situations in which farmers are compelled to commit suicide. According to their recommendations several measures such as making good quality seeds available

to the farmers, amendment to the Insecticides Act, simplifying the procedure of loan and providing more loans and creating awareness about other crop procedures and technologies and crop insurance among the farmers are being adopted.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

### Agricultural Production

\*205. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agricultural production has declined by 25 per cent towards the end of 1990 as a result of constant use of poor quality of agricultural inputs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take adequate measures to improve the quality of agricultural inputs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Agricultural production has maintained an increasing trend in the decade of the nineties. The likely production in 1998-99 is expected to be 3.9 per cent higher than that in 1997-98.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken various measures to improve the quality of various inputs. In order to ensure the adequate availability of fertilizers at reasonable prices throughout the country, Government has enacted the Fertilisers (Control) Order, 1985 which ensures that the fertilisers which meet the standards of quality laid down in the Order, are sold to the farmers.

Quality Control of Seeds is being organised through notification of varieties of seeds, Seed Certification, Seed Testing and Seed Law Enforcement. These elements of quality control have statutory support under Seeds Act, 1966 and Rules made thereunder. Seed has also been declared as an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to regulate the distribution of seed and its quality.

Supply of quality pesticides to the farmers is being regulated under the overall purview of the Insecticides

Act, 1968 and the rules framed thereunder. The steps taken thereof are drawal of larger number of sample of pesticides by the notified Insecticides Inspectors for analysis in the State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs); prosecution against the suppliers of misbranded pesticides, strengthening of SPTLs by providing grants-in-aid and training of Insecticides Inspectors and Analysts for effective enforcement of quality control of pesticides.

[English]

**Production of Foodgrain**

206. MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA  
KHANDURI, AVSM:  
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the production of foodgrains in the country for the year 1999-2000;

(b) whether the Government have identified such foodgrains whose production is less than the requirement of domestic consumption in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the country has achieved a record foodgrain production this year in comparison to earlier years;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the estimated quantity of foodgrains produced in various States during each of the last three years; and

(f) the measures being taken by the Government to increase the foodgrain production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):  
(a) No targets have yet been fixed for the production of foodgrains for the year 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) The shortage is only in the production of pulses. Against the requirement of 16.3 million tonnes of pulses, the production is of the order of 14.8 million tonnes during 1998-99.

(d) and (e) As per the present indications, statement enclosed, the foodgrain production in the current year will be record one and is likely to exceed 200 million tonnes.

(f) The Government is implementing a number of Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz., ICDP—Wheat, Rice, Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas, National Pulses Development Project and Accelerated Maize Development Programme. Further, under the National Agenda for Governance, the Government has set priorities for doubling food production in the next ten years adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies.

**Statement**

*Estimates of Area and Production of total Foodgrains*

State	Area (Thousand Hectares)			Production (Thousand Tonnes)			Yield (Kg./Hec.)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	6892.5	7286.7	6393.1	11666.6	13675.2	10939.7	1693	1877	1711
Arunachal Pradesh	183.1	176.6	183.3	203.5	205.8	209.8	1111	1165	1145
Assam	2726.7	2728.7	2722.1	3561.2	3532.1	3577.6	1306	1294	1314
Bihar	8993.4	9048.7	8834.6	12953.4	14417.6	12099.0	1440	1593	1480