

### Alkali Soil

2198. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is Centrally sponsored schemes for reclamation of alkali soils in the country;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the funds released to the States by the Government for this purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Reclamation of Alkali Soils is under implementation in the States of Haryana, Punjab and U.P. since 7th Five Year Plan (1985-86). The Scheme was extended to the States of Gujarat, M.P. and Rajasthan apart from the ongoing States. The scheme provides for adoption of package of technology for alkali soil reclamation by application of soil amendment, provision of assured irrigation for leaching, application of green manure, cultivation of salt tolerant wheat and rice variety, plantation of salt tolerant species of fruits, fuel-wood and fodder trees.

(c) The details of funds released to the States during the last three years are as under:—

Year	(Rs. in lakhs) Funds released
1995-96	999.99
1996-97	261.64
1997-98	338.00

### Software Industry

2199. SHRI S. VENKATESH NAIK:  
SHRI VITHAL TUPE:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan is a second largest importer of Indian Software;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some Japanese firms are looking for joint venture in the software industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of proposals for joint ventures received by the Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### NAFED

2200. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA:  
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have noticed any irregularities/corruption in the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have set up any enquiry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the finding of the enquiry and the action taken by the Government against erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) Some irregularities were alleged in the affairs of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) in respect of expenses on entertainment, donations, advertisements, General Body/Board meetings, foreign tours and appointment of consultants etc. The allegations were got enquired into.

(d) Based on the enquiry conducted by the Department and some other complaints received in the matter, the case was referred to C.B.I. for further investigation. The C.B.I. has registered a First Information Report against certain officials of NAFED in connection with alleged irregularities. NAFED has also been directed to devise transparent and prudential norms/guidelines on expenses on entertainment, donations, advertisement, gifts, expenditure on General Body/Board meetings and appointment of consultants etc.