

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard during the last two years;

(c) whether the Union Government are extending support for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount released to Madhya Pradesh during the last two 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) to (d) Government of India is implementing following Central Sector Schemes on fruits and vegetables in the States including Madhya Pradesh and is providing financial assistance to the States:—

(1) Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone Fruits:

Under this scheme assistance is being provided for establishment of nurseries and tissue-culture units for distribution of quality planting material, area expansion, rejuvenation of senile orchards, training of farmers and taking up publicity measures.

(2) Production and Supply of Vegetable Seeds:

Assistance is being provided for distribution vegetable seed minikits.

(3) Promoting cultivation of Root & Tuber Crops:

Assistance is being provided for distribution of minikits, laying out demonstration plots and setting up of True Potato Seed (TPS) Centres.

(4) Mushroom Production:

Assistance is being provided for setting up of pasteurised compost and spawn production units and training to the farmers.

(5) Use of Plastics in Agriculture:

Assistance is provided for drip system of irrigation, mulching and green house etc.

(e) The amount released during the last two years to Madhya Pradesh under various Central Sector Schemes is as under:

Year	Release (Rs. in lakhs)
1996-97	61.17
1997-98	297.66

**Construction of Dam**

2243. SHRI BALIRAM KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has created water crisis in Bustar division of Madhya Pradesh by constructing a dam across the river Indrawat near Jhaliaguda;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any instructions has been issued by the Union Government to the State Government of Orissa in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government of Orissa in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):  
(a) to (d) No such matter has been reported by both the State Governments to the Union Government.

**Krishi Vigyan Kendra**

2244. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foundation stones of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras at Sariya in Muzzafarpur district and in Vaishali were laid in the year 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons for not starting their operations so far; and

(c) the time by which both Vigyan Kendras would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):  
 (a) Yes, Sir. Both the Krishi Vigyan Kendras at Saraiya in Muzzafarpur and Vaishali districts have started their operations by organizing various activities including vocational training for farmers and frontline demonstrations on oilseeds and pulses.

During the period, 1349 farmers participated in training programmes and 1012 farmers in various extension activities such as Kisan Diwas, Kisan Gosthies and diagnostic visits.

During 1996-97 to 1997-98, an amount of Rs. 18.50 lakhs have been released by the Council to these Kendras.

(b) and (c) The question does not arise.

[English]

#### Space Laboratories

2245. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up space laboratories to make research on Cosmic-Rays; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):  
 (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Passport to Pakistani Agents

2246. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISHRA:  
 SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several instances of issue of Indian passports to Pakistani Agents have come to the knowledge of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to stop the issue of passport to Pakistani Agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):  
 (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Commutation of Pension

2247. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are formulating a National Policy for the welfare of the senior citizens;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to consider that the commuted portion of pension be restored after ten years;

(c) whether as per the existing rules, the pensions is reduced pro rata where the pensioner has put in less 33 years of service; and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to enhance the pension *pro rata* in cases where a pensioner has served for more than 33 years?

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) A National Policy for Older Persons has been announced by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The policy seeks to ensure the well being of older persons by attending to their financial security, health care, shelter, welfare and other development needs.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

#### Funds for Seed Development

2248. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB:  
 SHRI AJIT JOGI:  
 SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Government agricultural farms running in losses in the country, State-wise alongwith the reasons therefor;