

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;

(b) the total amount provided by the Union Government to the State Government for seed development programme in Government agriculture farm during the year 1997-98 and 1998-99; and

(c) the amount proposed to be provided by the Union Government during the current financial year for the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):  
(a) Information is being collected from the State Governments.

(b) and (c) The Central Government was implementing a scheme under which assistance was provided to the States, part of which was to be spent on seed development in agricultural farms. The scheme is "National Programme for Varietal Development (NPVD). The amount released during 1997-98 under this scheme is Rs. 220.00 lakhs. There is no proposal to release any fund under this scheme during 1998-99, because the scheme is under revision.

#### **National Symposium on Sustainable Agriculture**

2249. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:  
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Symposium on Sustainable Agriculture Production was held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the subjects discussed in the said symposium; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to help the farmers to boost productivity?

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 Nation Symposium on "Sustainable Agriculture Production Lessons from Traditional Technologies" was

held on 30-31st January, 1999 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The objectives of the Symposium were:

- (i) To bring together farmers and grassroot agencies involved in the practice of traditional technologies and to recognize the importance of these technology for sustainable agriculture production;
- (ii) To share experience of NGOs, Farmers' Organizations, individual farmers involved in successful practice of traditional technologies with agriculture scientists, government functionaries, policy makers and industry;
- (iii) To initiate a process for documentation and wherever possible adaptation, refinement and validation of these technologies for wider applicability.

The participants at this Symposium included senior officers from Ministries of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water Resources, Food etc., scientists from Indian Council of Agricultural Research and State Agricultural University System, officers from State Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, NGOs, progressive farmers, corporate sector and industry etc.

(c) The Symposium have five main Technical Session, namely:

- (i) **Traditional Technologies in Crop Production System-1**
  - Seed Development
  - Nutrient management
- (ii) **Traditional Technologies in Crop Production System-2**
  - Plant Protection
  - Farm Implements
- (iii) **Traditional Technologies in Post Harvest Management**
  - Storage
  - Processing
- (iv) **Traditional Technologies in Water Management.**
- (v) **Traditional Technologies in Animal Husbandry.**