

(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 National 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.

(d) The participants of the Symposium have been sensitized regarding the importance of indigenous technologies and practices for sustainable agriculture production and the need for evaluating them in the context of modern scientific and technological environment.

Women in Agriculture

2250. SHRI MADAN PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Women in Agriculture in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the scheme is not being implemented in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the funds provided to the State Governments under the above schemes 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) The Scheme was launched during the VIIIth Plan Period on pilot basis in one district each of the 7 States of the country. They are:

State	District
1. Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
2. Punjab	Jalandhar
3. Haryana	Hissar
4. U.P.	Bulandshar
5. Rajasthan	Udaipur
6. Maharashtra	Thane
7. Kerala	Palakkad

(c) and (d) The Scheme is being implemented in Thane district of Maharashtra State.

(e) The details of funds released to State Governments under the above Scheme is given in the Statement.

Statement

The details of funds released to State Govts. under the Scheme

Name of the State	Release of funds (in Rupees)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Haryana	6,64,580	6,54,580	6,64,580
Himachal Pradesh	6,64,580	2,54,580	—
Kerala	6,64,580	5,54,580	6,64,580
Maharashtra	6,64,580	13,60,020	6,64,580
Punjab	6,64,580	6,54,580	6,64,580
Rajasthan	6,64,580	5,54,580	6,64,580
Uttar Pradesh	6,64,580	6,54,580	6,64,580
Total	64,52,060	46,87,500	39,87,480

Development of Backward Areas of Assam

2251. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have approved any scheme for the development of backward areas of Assam during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated to Assam for the purpose during the above period;

(d) the details of other schemes submitted by the Assam Government to the Union Government for seeking financial assistance; and

(e) the time by which the project are likely to be sanctioned?