

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) For development of spices in India, Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Programme for Development of Spices" is being implemented, for which an outlay of Rs. 37.50 crores has been provided for the year, 1998-99.

Similarly for the development of coconut, the Coconut Development Board is implementing following projects with an allocation of Rs. 23.00 crores for 1998-99:—

- (i) Production & distribution of planting material;
- (ii) Area expansion;
- (iii) Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement;
- (iv) Integrated programme for control of leaf eating caterpillar;
- (v) Establishment of coconut technology development centre;
- (vi) Extension and publicity;
- (vii) Establishment of Integrated information and demonstration centre.

As regards tasser silk development, following Catalytic Development Schemes have been sanctioned for implementation during IX Plan:—

- (i) Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure;
- (ii) Support to agencies (NGOs/Cooperative Societies) for upgradation and popularisation of improved reeling/spinning devices for tropical tasser;
- (iii) Crop Insurance Support for Tasser.

Besides, there are general schemes under Catalytic Development Schemes which cover development of silk including tasser silk. In addition, Government of Madhya Pradesh has undertaken implementation of a project with Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan, assistance for tasser sericulture. The project envisages development of 4000 hectares of tasser food plants and increased production of 75 tonnes of tasser raw silk per annum after the project period.

[Translation]

Development of Backward Areas

2286. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes sanctioned by the Union Government during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 for the development of backward areas of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the amount sanctioned and released by the Union Government annually during the above period for these schemes;

(c) the details of the schemes submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh to the Union Government for sanction; and

(d) the action taken by the Union Government to sanction these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Planning & Development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Planning Commission have not identified any area as backward *per se*. However, Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in the development of backward regions through appropriate weightage for backwardness in the formula used for distribution of Normal Central Assistance amongst the States. Further, additional Assistance is allocated to various States, including Madhya Pradesh, for Special Area Programmes and various poverty alleviation schemes.

(c) and (d) There are no schemes of the State Government pending with Planning Commission.

Commission for Agriculture Cost and Price

2287. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commission for Agriculture Cost and Price has constituted a High Level Standing Committee to regularly discuss the problems of food department;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its composition; and