

(c) The Working Group on Soil and Water Conservation for the formulation of Ninth Five Year Plan, has recommended launching of a scheme for reclamation of marginal and shallow ravine in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat during Ninth Five Year Plan. Besides this, a EEC assisted project on Ravine stabilisation in the State of UP has been approved and will begin implementation from the current year.

Statement

S.No.	State	(area in lakh ha.) Ravine Area
1.	Uttar Pradesh	12.30
2.	Madhya Pradesh	6.83
3.	Rajasthan	4.52
4.	Gujarat	4.00
5.	Maharashtra	0.20
6.	Punjab	1.20
7.	Bihar	6.00
8.	Tamil Nadu	0.60
9.	West Bengal	1.04
Total		36.69

[Translation]

Soil Erosion by Yamuna River

63. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made by the Union Government to check soil erosion in the river Yamuna during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the effective steps taken or propose to be taken to check soil erosion by the river Yamuna in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Investigation and implementation of schemes for checking soil erosion including assessment of soil erosion is within the purview of respective State Governments. To Centre renders assistance that are technical; catalytical and promotional in nature. Ganga Flood Control Commission has prepared comprehensive Plan for Ganga basin by the end of the year 1990, which includes Yamuna Sub-basin also. The comprehensive Plan suggested short term and long term measures for flood management as well as to check soil

erosion in the Sub-basins of the Ganga river including Yamuna Sub-basin. This Comprehensive Plan has been sent to all the Ganga basin States including Uttar Pradesh for preparation of detailed schemes and their implementation.

[English]

Food Processing Units in Kerala

64. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up food processing units in Kerala with foreign collaboration in the coming years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up food processing units directly in any State. However to facilitate setting up of such units in the country including in the State of Kerala, the Ministry provides financial assistance under its Plan Schemes.

During the period from July 1991 to March, 1998, 19 proposals involving foreign investment of Rs. 33 crores (approximately) have been approved for various sectors of food processing in the State of Kerala.

[Translation]

Live Stock and Dairy Development

65. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are formulating any ambitious scheme pertaining to livestock and dairy development in the tribal dominant backward districts of the country in the form of Central Regional Scheme;

(b) the time by which the approval is likely to be accorded to the said scheme;

(c) the names of the districts of Madhya Pradesh likely to be covered under the said scheme; and

(d) the cost of this scheme and the amount likely to be allocated to Madhya Pradesh under the Ninth Five Year Plan for this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) No such proposal is envisaged for Ninth Plan.

[English]

Supply of Better Seeds to Cotton Growers

66. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the import of quality seeds has been suggested to stem the cotton crop failure;

(b) whether the cotton mill federation has been demanding for good certified seeds and better pest management;

(c) whether the said federation has also demanded for check on spurious supplies of pesticides; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) In the country, the availability of cotton seed was more than the requirement during Kharif 1997 and also Kharif 1998. Hence, the question of import of quality seeds does not arise to stem cotton crop failure.

(b) and (c) No such formal demand has been received.

(d) Does not arise.

Irrigation Projects in Andhra Pradesh

67. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has chalked out an action plan to take up essential repairs and maintenance work of irrigation projects in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of irrigation projects that are under implementation;

(d) the total number of projects which have not been cleared by the Union Government so far; and

(e) the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (e) The essential repairs and maintenance work of Irrigation Projects are carried out by the State Government according to their own priority and out of their own resources. Clearance from the Union Government is not necessary for such works.

[Translation]

Free Movement of Agricultural Products

68. SHRI AMARPAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow free movement of the industry-based products and by-products of the farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) There is generally no restrictions on movement of any agricultural products and by-products of the farmers. Most of the States/ U.Ts have removed all the statutory restrictions on free movement of foodgrains i.e. wheat, coarsegrains, pulses and levy free rice within the country. However, some State Governments, viz., Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and J&K, have imposed certain restrictions on the movement of paddy/ rice outside the State with a view to maximising procurement of rice and to prevent smuggling of foodgrains across the international borders.

In the case of sugarcane also, there is no restriction imposed by the Government on movement except in case where the farmer is located in a reserved area of a sugar factory. In such cases also, the farmer can sell his cane to Gur & Khandhari Manufacturers within the reserved area. Only in case of Maharashtra, the farmer can sell his sugarcane, even though he is located in a reserved area of a sugar factory, with export permit issued by the State Government anywhere. In all other States, the reserved area concept holds good.

[English]

Supply of Milk

69. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering for supply of milk to weaker sections of the society; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the quantum of such supply and subsidy being provided in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Government efforts are targeted to dairy development in general so that more milk is available to the society.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

World Bank Assistance

70. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some renewable energy projects are being implemented in the country with World Bank assistance;

(b) if so, the locations thereof and the amount of World Bank assistance obtained for these projects;

(c) whether the Government propose to start some renewable energy projects with World Bank assistance in Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken in that direction?