

Agricultural Production

3308. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a considerable drop in agricultural production during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) if so, the extent to which the production decreased during the above period;

(c) the target fixed/achieved for agricultural production of the above period; and

(d) the efforts being made to increase the agricultural production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) There is a general trend of increase in agricultural production, though there are fluctuations due to climatic conditions. The production of agricultural crops during 1996-97 had increased by 9.3 percent but exhibited a decline of 5.8 percent during 1997-98 due to adverse weather conditions. The production in 1998-99 is again up by about 3.9 percent.

(c) The targets/achievements of various crops during 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given as under :

(in million tonnes)

Group of Crops	1996-97		1997-98	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Foodgrains	193.5	199.4	200.0	192.4
Oilseeds	23.0	24.4	25.5	22.0
Sugarcane	270.0	277.6	280.0	276.3
Cotton*	13.0	14.2	14.8	14.0
Jute & Mesta@	9.0	11.1	9.8	11.1

*Million bales of 170 Kg. each

@ Million bales of 180 Kg. each

(d) In order to increase production and productivity of various crops, the Government is implementing crop specific centrally sponsored/central sector schemes under which incentives are provided to farmers for use of quality seeds and location specific high yielding/hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements etc. Besides, field

demonstrations on farmers' holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Further, under the national agenda for governance, the Government has given fresh thrust to double the food production in next ten years through adoption of regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

[Translation]

Increase in Terrorist Activities

3309. SHRI GAURI SHANKAR CHATURBHUI BISEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing terrorist activities in the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the countries which are supporting and patronizing these activities;

(c) whether talks were held with these countries to check these activities;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to check these activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (e) Government are aware of the terrorist activities in the North East. Reports indicate that agencies inimical to India's interests, particularly those of Pakistan, are assisting some of the terrorist groups in the North East. These groups are reported to be misusing the territories of neighbouring countries including Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh. Government have been apprising these neighbouring countries regularly about this. These countries have assured co-operation in this regard. The matter has also been taken up with Pakistan.

Steps taken by the Government to deal with the insurgent activities in the north-eastern States include, *inter alia*, sanction of special central assistance; improved coordination and sharing of intelligence; modernisation/upgradation of State police forces; deployment of additional units of central security forces; reimbursement of security-related expenditure; declaration of the most seriously affected areas as "disturbed areas" and notification of the major insurgent groups as "unlawful associations". The situation is kept under watch and is reviewed from time to time for taking appropriate action.

[English]

Takeover of ICWA

3310. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: