

1989	409
1990	524
1991	655

(c) The Delhi Police have reported that in some cases culprits are not traceable. Most of the unsolved cases are difficult cases and were referred to the Crime-Branch after lapse of some time.

Kerala Committee report on natural gas pricing

5817. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations of the Kelkar Committee Report on Natural Gas pricing;

(b) whether the Government have approved the Report;

(c) whether the gas based projects will be affected after the implementation of the Report;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIB. SHANKARANAND)
(a)(i) Price at landfall point: Rs. 1600/1000 M3 plus increase by Rs. 200/1000M3 every year for 3 years.

(ii) Additional price on HBJ Pipeline: Rs. 850/1000M3.

(iii) Price in North Eastern States: Rs. 1000/1000M3 with a discount of Rs. 400/1000M3 on case to case basis.

(b) The Kelkar Committee's recommendations have formed the basis, with suitable

modifications, for the revised prices of natural gas that have been made effective from 1.1.1992.

(c) to (e). Since the prices of gas have been revised for the first time since 1987, gas based industries are not likely to be adversely affected.

Top-Soil Degradation

5818. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to assess the top-soil degradation in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the schemes proposed to be implemented to check the top-soil degradation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLYRAMACHANDRAN) (a) and (b). The Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Agricultural Universities, State Agricultural Research Stations, etc. are undertaking studies on top soil erosion and land degradation in the country.

(c) Substantial problem area affected by soil erosion and land degradation are being tackled under the State Sector soil and water conservation programmes; however, the efforts are also supplemented by Central Schemes. Some of the important schemes include:

A. STATE SECTOR

i) Social & Water Conservation Schemes.

ii) Afforestation in degraded forest lands.

CENTRAL SECTOR

- i). Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects.
- ii) Integrated Watershed Management in the catchments of Flood Prone Rivers.
- iii) National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas.
- iv) Reclamation of Ravinous Area in Dacoity Prone Districts of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- v) Control of Shifting Cultivation.
- vi) Drought Prone Area Programme.
- vii) Desert Development Programme.
- viii) National Wastelands Development Programme.
- ix) Social Forestry.

Embryo-Transfer Technology

5819. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether vast advances have been made in embryo-transfer technology under animal genetic improvement programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to popularise this technology so as to benefit the poor farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The research in embryo transfer technology covers cattle, buffaloes, and goats. As result of the research, the first ever in-vitro fertilized embryo-transferred calf, named "Pratham", was born in November, 1990.

(c) The technology is being standardised and training programmes are conducted for personnel having adequate background in the filed of reproduction.

Use of Hazardous Pesticides

5820. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the pesticides produced or imported which are considered to be a health hazard; and

(b) the reason for the continued use of such -pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). The Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1986 registers relatively safe pesticides for production or import into the country. Eighteen pesticides which were considered to be more toxin/hazardous have been refused registration, so far. Besides, nine pesticides which were earlier in use in the country have been banned.

Self-Employment Schemes for Handicapped Persons

5821. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have introduced/propose to introduce any self-employment schemes for handicapped; and