

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the selling price of seeds and pesticides are realistic to their actual cost of production;

(d) if so, whether the Government have any programme to control and regulate the prices of seeds and pesticides to realistic level; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) As a part of the exercise for estimating the cost of production of various crops for fixing the minimum support price, there is a scheme for studying the cost of cultivation of principal crops. The cost of input such as seed, fertilizer and insecticide is estimate for the following crops:

Paddy, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, barley, arhar, moong, urad, gram, groundnut, soyabean, sunflowerseed, rapeseed/mustard, toria, safflower, copra, sesamum, nigersaed, cotton, jute, tobacco and sugarcane

(c) to (e) There is no policy of relating the selling price of seeds and pesticides to the cost of production and exercising statutory control on the selling price.

#### Co-operatives

3062. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Involve weaker sections in co-operative sector" appearing in the 'The Hindu' dated June 5, 1998;

(b) if so, the relation of the Government thereto;

(c) the steps being taken for providing Constitutional protection to co-operatives on the line of Panchayati Raj;

(d) whether public and private sectors have been recognised for Plan and non-Plan funds; and

(e) if so, the reasons for neglecting the co-operative sector?

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

(b) Government are in agreement with the view that cooperative sector should play its due role in eliminating rural as well as urban poverty. The weaker sections have

been participating in the cooperative movement. However, their involvement need to be strengthened and made more active. There is also a need for greater transparency and accountability in cooperatives for ensuring their healthy growth. Government has been giving due encouragement to the cooperatives through various policies and programmes so that they an function in an effective manner for achieving various socio-economic objectives.

(c) Cooperatives are voluntary institutions and, therefore, constitutional protection to them on the lines of Panchayati Raj institutions is not considered necessary.

(d) and (e) The existing classification of Government expenditure into Plan and non-Plan expenditure is based on certain criteria and such a classification perse does not result in any neglect of the financial requirements of the cooperatives

#### Industry for Utilisation of Maize in Bihar

3083. SHRI RAJ BANSHI MAHTO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the production of maize in Bihar;

(b) whether there is no industry for the utilisation of maize in the State resulting thereby that the farmers of the State have to sell their production of maize below the administered price fixed by the Government from time to time;

(c) whether the Government have any plan/ programme to set any industry based on maize either in public or in private sector in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the place where it is propped to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Foreign Commercial Service Office

3084. SHRI CHANDULAL AJMEERA :  
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to accord clearance for the establishment of a US and Foreign Commercial Service Office at Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, the action taken to accord early clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The US government had requested opening Foreign Commercial Service Offices in some Indian cities including Hyderabad. Decisions in respect of opening such offices in Bangalore, Pune and Ahmedabad have already been conveyed.

[*Translation*]

#### **Agricultural Commission for Costs and Prices**

3085. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices in determining the prices of the foodgrains;

(b) whether the recommendations of the Commission are being strictly followed by the Government;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) steps being taken by the Government to ensure payment of remunerative prices to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The role of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is to advise the Government on the price policy of agricultural commodities with a view to evolving a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy and with due regard to the interests of the producer and consumer.

(b) and (c) The Government, by and large, accepts the recommendations of the CACP. However, the Government at times improves upon the recommendation made by the CACP keeping in view the development subsequent to submission of the report.

(d) The main objective of the Government's price policy for agricultural produce is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production, and to safeguard the interests of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices. Government announces each season the minimum support price for major agricultural commodities and organises purchase operation through public and cooperative agencies such

as Food Corporation of India, Jute Corporation of India, Cotton Corporation of India, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NFED) and Tobacco Board, besides other agencies designated by the State Governments.

#### **Mango Research Centre**

[*English*]

3086. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set-up a full fledged Mango Research Centre at Nuzvid in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh and a Mango Board for marketing and export of mangoes; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir, Mango Research in Andhra Pradesh is being supported by ICAR under its All India Coordinated Research Project at Fruit Research Station, Sangareddy of the Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad since 1971. This station also covers mango research of Nuzvid area.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Weed Parthenium**

3087. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ever increasing problem of the weed parthenium hysterophoms (also known as Chatak in Hindi and Gajar Ganat in Marathi) is causing a threat to residents of various localities and is also hampering the agricultural growth;

(b) if so, whether the agro-scientists propose to look into the threatening menace to help the local authorities to deal with the problem effectively; and

(c) the details of the steps likely to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) The Government have taken following steps in consultation with the Scientists of Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural