

or permanent, under Article 338 of the Constitution and consequently, the commission has no powers to direct withholding of operation of any order issued by the Government.

(c) and (d) According to the information furnished by the Department of Telecommunication, the reservation policy of the Government is being followed by that Department.

#### **Crop Insurance Scheme**

3055. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Crop Insurance scheme implemented by the Union Government presently;

(b) whether the Government is aware that Palghat district in Kerala State is one of the important paddy production region of the country; and

(c) the reasons for exclusion of the paddy farmers of Kerala from the Crop Insurance Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) A Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) has been in operation in the country since 1985. It covers all farmers growing wheat, paddy, millet, (including maize), plusses and oilseeds crops and availing crop loan from Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Credit Institutions. The sum insured is equal to crop loan disbursed, subject to maximum of Rs. 10,000/- per farmer. Insurance charges are 2% (for wheat, paddy and millets) and 1% (for oilseeds and pulses crops) of the sum insured. 50% of the insurance charges payable by the small and marginal farmers are subsidized equally by the Central and State Governments. The premium and claims are shared between the Central and the State Governments in the ratio of 2 : 1.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) CCIS is being implemented in Kerala (including Palghat district) with paddy as the only notified crop. CCIS being voluntary in nature, areas and crops for the purpose of implementation of the Scheme are notified by the State Governments concerned from season to season.

#### **Technical Officers**

3056. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Pay Commission recommended Central Agricultural Services for creation of promotional

avenues for the technical officers of the Agriculture department;

(b) whether his department has favoured implementation of this recommendation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir, The Fifth Pay Commission has recommended constitution of a Central Agriculture Service comprising all Group 'A' posts in the Department and its attached and subordinate offices.

(b) to (d) View of the Department are yet to be finalised.

#### **Sea Erosion**

3057. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :  
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :  
SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN :  
SHRI N. DENNIS :  
SHRI S.S. OWAISI :  
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken by the Government to prevent sea erosion in the country;

(b) the funds provided by the Union Government to the State Governments of coastal areas to check sea erosion during the last three years, year-wise and state-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to implement a National Coastal Protection Project during the Ninth Five Year Plan period covering all maritime States with external assistance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the project is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : Planning investigation, execution and maintenance of anti sea erosion works is the responsibility of concerned State Government. Central Government has constituted Coastal Protection and Development Advisory Committee (CPDAC) for advising the Coastal States on effective and economical solution

to the Coastal problems including anti sea erosion measures.

(b) Statement howling funds allocated to Flood Control Sector, which includes anti sea erosion works also, in respect of Coastal States for the years 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 is enclosed.

(c) to (e) As decided by the CPDAC, all Coastal States have been asked by the Central Government to send proposals for protection of vulnerable stretches of coast in their respective States for inclusion in the National Coastal Protection Project being prepared by the Central Water Commission. Proposals with requisite information have been received from Kerala, Karnataka and Gujarat. Government of India has not identified any agency for funding the project. Time schedule for completion would be decided after finalisation of the consolidated project incorporation proposals from all Coastal States and identifying source of funding.

#### **Statement**

*Approved outlays in respect of Flood Control Sub Sector (including Sea Erosion) for the years 1995-96 to 1997-98.*

(Rs. in Crores)

| Sl. No. | Name of States & UT's | Approved outlays for the years |         |         |
|---------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|
|         |                       | 1995-96                        | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
| 1.      | Andhra Pradesh        | 30.00                          | 22.00   | 17.00   |
| 2.      | Goa                   | 0.30                           | 0.80    | 0.84    |
| 3.      | Gujarat               | 1.60                           | 1.60    | 5.00    |
| 4.      | Karnataka             | 9.72                           | 10.00   | 7.47    |
| 5.      | Kerala                | 21.00                          | 35.50   | 25.50   |
| 6.      | Maharashtra           | 0.55                           | 1.27    | 6.37    |
| 7.      | Orissa                | 8.80                           | 10.00   | 5.00    |
| 8.      | Tamil Nadu            | 3.49                           | 1.59    | 2.03    |
| 9.      | West Bengal           | 43.00                          | 66.35   | 70.23   |
| 10.     | Pondicherry           | 3.50                           | 3.50    | 3.00    |

#### **Nuclear Test**

3058. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the site of nuclear test "Pokharan" is a prohibited area;

(b) if so, whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Memorial Planned at Pokharan" appearing in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated May 18, 1998 and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government have seen media reports on the subject which have been attributed to sources outside the Government.

#### **Development of Cryogenic Engine**

3059. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of cryogenic engine being developed by Indian Space Research Organisation;

(b) the details of recent review made in this regard;

(c) the details of international cooperation finalised in development of the technology and the success achieved so far; and

(d) the work plan for the current year and the funds allocated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Following the deletion of technology transfer from the contract entered into by ISRO with the M/s GLAVKOSMOS, Russia in December, 1993, the Government approved the indigenous Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS) Project in April 1994.

Significant progress has been made by the project in the last four years by way of design of the engine, stage and test facilities, fabrication of engine elements, initiation of stage fabrication and establishment of facilities. Detailed design reviews for engine and stage, development efforts and software modelling of critical subsystems and processes are progressing. A One-tonne class pressure fed cryo engine has been successfully developed which gives confidence for the realization of the