

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

(a) Probationers of the Indian Foreign Service are exposed to approximately an eight-day programme on the main aspects of Indian culture for, on an average, five-hours each day, of demonstration and discussion. Apart from this they are told about various facets of cultural, scientific, etc. achievements of ancient India in course of extensive field trips that they undertake.

(b) The said time fixed for training is adequate.

(c) to (e) Does not arise

[*English*]

Irrigation Projects in Goa

3072. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several irrigation projects which had been started over a decade ago in Goa have not been completed so far due to lack of funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) the stage at which these projects stand at present; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government for their expeditious clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The details are as under.

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Plan of Start	Latest estimated cost	Cum. exp. upto 3/97 (est.)
Major				
1.	Salauli	IV	153.00	108.49
2.	Tilari	V	525.59	150.16
Medium				
1.	Mandovi	V	40.00	2.40

(d) All the above projects have already been accorded investment clearance by the Planning Commission.

[*Translation*]

Betel Grower

3073. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme for improving the conditions of betel growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken for covering betel growers under crop insurance scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Government of India implemented a Central Sector Scheme on Development of Betelvine in the country during 8th Five Year Plan. This Scheme has now been discontinued.

(c) Betelvine is not covered under the existing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme, on account of non-availability of requisite past yield data and also because of multi-picking nature of the crop.

Soil Erosion in Bihar

3074. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rivers causing excessive soil erosion in Bihar;

(b) the total land affected as a result thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Rivers causing excessive soil erosion in Bihar are the Northern tributaries of Ganga, namely Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Bagmati, Kamla-Balani, Adhwara Group of rivers, Koshi and Mahananda. The reach of main Ganga from Buxar to Karagola (Manihar ghat) is also subject to severe erosion.

(b) Records of area effected by soil erosion are not maintained by the Central Government.

(c) Planning and implementation of Flood management works including anti erosion measures is the responsibility of the State Government. Ganga Flood Control Commission under Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India has prepared comprehensive plans for flood management of all 23 sub-basins of Ganga basin including those traversing Bihar and sent to the State Government for preparing detailed schemes and implementation. These comprehensive plans contain suggestions for various measures towards controlling river