

(SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The countries with which India is collaborating in Antarctic Research Programme at present are:

Germany, Italy, Argentina, and Peru

(b) and (c) India has not set up any Study Centre in Antarctica. However, an Antarctic Study Centre has been recently set up by the Department in Goa. This Centre will be the nodal agency for coordinating Polar Science & logistics of the Indian Antarctic Programme. It will also have specialised laboratories in the field of Antarctic Science and research.

Category-wise Representation in Services

3093. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRI T.R. BAALU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of the Government employees belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes working in various departments of the Government category-wise;

(b) the number of officers belonging to these categories at Joint Secretary and above positions in the Union Government as on date, separately;

(c) the details of vacant posts in various departments for the above said categories as on 31st December, 1996 and 1997, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to fill-up these vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The category-wise percentage of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees excluding Sweepers as on 1.1.1995 was 17.43% and 5.78% respectively. Representation as on 1.1.1995 of employees of Other Backward classes recruited since 8.9.1993 was 0.2%.

(b) As on 1.7.1998, 25 officers belonging to the Scheduled Caste category and 22 officers belonging to the Scheduled Tribe category were holding posts of Joint Secretary and above at the Centre. There is no record of officers from other Backward Classes holding posts of Joint Secretary and above as these officers were recruited as general candidates much before introduction of reservation for the OBCs.

(c) The information is not centrally maintained.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Irrigation Projects in Orissa

3094. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement some major and medium irrigation projects in Southern Orissa during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any fund has been provided by the Union Government to the State Government for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Irrigation is a State subject and irrigation projects are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves according to their own priorities.

[Translation]

Food Processing Industries in Bihar

3095. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to boost food processing industries in the country particularly in Bihar and to create new opportunities for employment in this sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of food processing industries in the country, state-wise; and

(d) the existing laws to establish new food processing industries and to provide Government assistance to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Ministry has taken a number of steps to promote and develop food processing industries in the country including Bihar and to generate employment opportunities in this sector. From July 1991 to March, 1998, 33 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda (IEMs) involving an investment of Rs. 2630 crores and employment of 2870 persons, have been filed

for setting up food processing industries in Bihar. During the same period, 6 proposals for Joint Ventures/Setting up of 100% Export Oriented Units involving an investment of Rs. 33 crores, including foreign investment of Rs. 1 crore, and generating employment of 593 persons, have been approved by the Government of India for the State of Bihar.

(c) According to the Annual Survey of Industries for 1994-95 published by the Central Statistical Organisation (Department of Statistics), there were 29407 factories in the country as a whole in the various sectors of food processing. Statewise number of factories is shown in the enclosed Statement-I.

Food Processing Industries, specifically relating to the fruit and vegetables sector, are required to take a licence from the Ministry of Food Processing Industries under the Fruit Products Order (FPO) promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act. There are 4932 fruit and vegetables processing units which have been licensed under FPO upto January, 1998. Their Statewise detail is given in the enclosed Statement-II

(d) Food Processing Industries are licensed except for brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and those items reserved for the Small Scale Sector. In the case of delicensed industries; only an Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda is required to be filed. For setting up of Joint Venture/Foreign Collaboration/100% Export Oriented Unit, approval is given by the Government.

Under the Plan Schemes of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, financial assistance in the form of loan and grant is extended to Non-Governmental Organisations, Cooperatives, Public Sector Undertakings, Private Sector Industry etc. for promotion of food proceeding industries.

Statement-I

State-wise Number of Food Processing Units in the Factory Sector as per Annual Survey of Industries (1994-95)

S.N.	Name of the State	No. of Factories
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10183
2.	Assam	734
3.	Bihar	433

1	2	3
4.	Goa	34
5.	Gujarat	1270
6.	Haryana	600
7.	Himachal Pradesh	46
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	69
9.	Karnataka	1221
10.	Kerala	1170
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1302
12.	Maharashtra	2420
13.	Manipur	9
14.	Meghalaya	3
15.	Nagaland	5
16.	Orissa	425
17.	Punjab	1196
18.	Rajasthan	515
19.	Tamil Nadu	3792
20.	Tripura	22
21.	Uttar Pradesh	2652
22.	West Bengal	1089
23.	Chandigarh	36
24.	Daman & Diu	5
25.	Delhi	125
26.	Pondicherry	42
27.	Others	9
Total		29407

Statement-II

*State-wise division of Fruits & Vegetable Units
licensed under the Fruit Products Order 1955.*

1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	300
2.	Assam	—	25
3.	Bihar	—	58
4.	Gujarat	—	260
5.	Haryana	—	151
6.	Himachal Pradesh	—	90
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	83
8.	Karnataka	—	253
9.	Kerala	—	387
10.	Madhya Pradesh	—	104
11.	Maharashtra	—	934
12.	Meghalaya	—	14
13.	Manipur	—	9
14.	Nagaland	—	5
15.	Orissa	—	43
16.	Punjab	—	309
17.	Rajasthan	—	110
18.	Sikkim	—	3

19.	Tamil Nadu	—	452
20.	Tripura	—	4
21.	Uttar Pradesh	—	494
22.	West Bengal	—	298
23.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	3
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	3
25.	Chandigarh	—	54
26.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—	7
27.	Delhi	—	302
28.	Goa Daman & Diu	—	160
29.	Mizoram	—	3
30.	Pondicherry	—	14
<hr/> Total			4932

[English]

Plant Protection

3096. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the Central Schemes being implemented for plant protection in different States; and

(b) the details of the pest control measures undertaken under the scheme in the country during the last three years State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The Government