

Linseed/Mustard Research Centre

4129. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been sent by the Government of Bihar to the Union Government to set up a Linseed/Mustard Research Centre in the State; and

(b) if so, the time by which the project is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

[English]

Cyclone in Gujarat

4130. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the agencies responsible for not alerting the people in time living by the sea side about the impending storm; and

(b) the steps taken to check such negligence in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) A High Level Fact Finding Team has been constituted which would attempt to understand the sequence of events and advise ways and means for ensuring better preparedness in future. The Report of the Team is awaited.

Bakrol Irrigation Project

4131. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:
SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for the technical clearance of Bakrol irrigation project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

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

(b) According to the proposal received from Government of Gujarat, The Bakrol Irrigation Project with estimated cost of Rs. 23.86 crores, envisages annual irrigation of 4500 hectares in Sabarkantha District;

(c) The Union Government has not taken any decision due to non-compliance of the observations of Central Water Commission by the Government of Gujarat.

[Translation]

Drip Irrigation System

4132. SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have kept Madhya Pradesh under lower category of classification regarding purchase of drip irrigation system.

(b) if so, the justification this classification;

(c) whether the farmers of Madhya Pradesh are required to pay 25 percent more price on the purchase of drip system in comparison to that of Maharashtra on account of this classification;

(d) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal to the Union Government to place the State under category 'B'; and

(e) if so, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken and implemented in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Since the drip manufacturers were unable to provide the drip systems at a uniform price throughout the country as the prices of components vary from State to State depending upon the level of awareness, proximity of the State to the factory, the distance involved in transportation, potential of drip irrigation in the State and taxes levied, the States in the country are categorised as A, B & C. As the level of awareness in Madhya Pradesh State in implementing the drip irrigation was very low while initiating the scheme by the Government, the State

was put under category 'C'. As per the guidelines, for all category 'C' States the system cost for drip irrigation can be raised upto 25% over the average cost of category 'A' State, i.e. Maharashtra.

(d) and (e) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh had furnished a proposal in January, 1997 requesting for placing Madhya Pradesh State under category 'B'. The Government of Madhya Pradesh was informed that the proposal regarding recategorisation of the States would be looked into by a committee which has been set up to review the price structure of the drip irrigation system. The State Government was also informed that the farmers of Madhya Pradesh could purchase the drip system from any where they feel convenient. The meeting of the committee was held on 04.07.1998 and the final report is expected shortly.

Development of Trout Fish

4133. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for development of 'Trout Fish' in cold water currents from the Government of Uttar Pradesh is awaiting clearance from the Union Government;

(b) if so, since when and the details of the project;

(c) the funds sought/allocated or the foreign assistance sought for the project; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be cleared and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) The Government of India have received a project proposal with an estimated cost of Rs. 2.0 crores from the Government of Uttar Pradesh in May, 1996 for seeking external assistance for the development of Trout Fish farming in the hilly areas of the State. The Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance have informed that the proposal was posed to the French authorities for assistance under the Indo-French Financial Protocol in April, 1998, but the French authorities were of the view that since the proposal does not meet the technical and structural parameters required for eligibility, they cannot consider the proposal under the Indo-French Financial Protocol.

However, development of fish farming in the hilly region of Uttar Pradesh is already covered under the

ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Development of Freshwater Aquaculture".

Irrigated Land

4134. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have achieved the target fixed for bringing the land under irrigation during the eighth Five year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any effective plan to achieve the target fixed for the purpose during Ninth Five Year Plan period; and

(e) if so, the funds likely to be incurred on implementation of the plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Reasons for not achieving the targets include (i) Financial constraints, (ii) proliferation of projects resulting in thin spreading of resources and consequent time and cost over-runs, and (iii) change in scope and design of projects during construction, etc.

(d) Ninth Five Year Plan have not been finalised by the Planning Commission.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Crop Insurance Scheme

4135. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experimental Crop Insurance Scheme for covering non-loanee small and marginal farmers in