

3. Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement.
4. Integrated control of leaf eating caterpillar.

Besides above programmes, installation of drip irrigation system is also implemented under the programme "Use of Plastics in Agriculture" for coconut in many States.

(c) The allocation of funds made during the last three years for implementing programmes for promotion of coconut cultivation through the Coconut Development Board are as under:—

Year	Allocation (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	2000
1996-97	6000
1997-98	1975

Agriculture Policy

4214. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finally formulated a new National Agriculture Policy to include provisions of crop insurance and economic security for the farmer;

(b) if so, the board features of the contemplated policy; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) A comprehensive National Policy on Agriculture is in the final stages of drafting and is likely to be finalised shortly in consultation with the States.

The Policy will aim at the management and conservation of the natural resource base through sustainable management of land and water resource base through sustainable management of land and water resources. It will seek to promote environmentally non-degrading, technically sound, economically viable and socially acceptable improvement of natural resources to

promote sustainable development of agriculture. The policy will focus particular attention on measures such as an effective crop insurance cover and Land reforms to channelise the energies of farmers, particularly the small and marginal farmers, and promote their well being.

Commission for Agricultural Cost and Price

4215. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the composition of commission for agricultural cost and price;

(b) whether commission for agricultural cost and price has been successful in achieving its goal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make commission for agricultural cost and price more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The composition of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) is as under:—

Chairman	—	1
Member (official)	—	2
Member (non-official)	—	3
Member-Secretary	—	1

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The recommendations made by the CACP help the Government in formulating the price policy for agricultural commodities. The price policy in conjunction with package of technology and services hitherto pursued has paid rich dividends in terms of raising production, productivity and investment on a sustained basis.

Launching of Belgium Satellite

4216. SHRI PRITHAVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISRO has recently won a contract from the European Space Agency to launch a Belgium-built 'Probat' satellite into the polar orbit aboard its PSLV launcher; and