

rabl Maize Crop are being given under Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP). Incentives include subsidy for use of certified seeds of hybrids/improved varieties of maize, improved implements and the seed mini-kits of maize. Besides, frontline demonstrations and field demonstrations on improved crop production technology and demonstrations on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) on farmers' fields are also conducted by providing inputs. Farmers' training on crop production technology are also conducted under the programme to transfer the latest technology to the farmers. These incentives are not linked with any productivity level.

(b) The target for the production of maize is fixed separately and included in the overall target of production of cereals along with wheat, rice and other coarse cereals. During 1997-98 against a target of 11 million tonnes the maize production is expected at 11.15 million tonnes.

Rice Cultivation

1232. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted proposals for increasing the production of rice cultivation in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the decision of the Government to the said proposals with allocation made for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government of Kerala has not submitted any proposal as such for increasing the production/cultivation of rice or for the allocation of funds under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-RICE)". However considering the norms and programmes implemented in previous years by the State under the ICDP-Rice, an allocation of Rs.134.78 lakhs, as Central Share, has been made for 1998-99.

Norms for Below Poverty Line

1233. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI K.P. NAIDU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed certain norms to identify the people living below poverty line in the country;

(b) if so, the number of persons identified so far particularly in Maharashtra and Karnataka;

(c) whether State Governments have opposed the existing norms of identifying the persons below poverty line;

(d) if so, the views of State Governments in this regards, and

(e) the reaction of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) to (e) As per the latest information, 320.37 million persons in the country are estimated to live below this norm in 1993-94. The number of persons living below the poverty norms in Maharashtra and Karnataka was 30.52 million and 15.65 million respectively in 1993-94.

Allocation of Fund

1234. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any suggestion/proposal from Government of U.P. to allocate more funds or increase the plan outlay amount for plans/projects pertaining to various Ministries;

(b) if so, the plan-wise/ Ministry-wise details thereof as on date;

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard so far; and

(d) the time by which more funds is likely to be allocated to Government of U.P.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Planning Commission has not received any such proposals except a request from the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for enhanced allocation of Special Central Assistance (SCA) under Hill Areas Development Programme.

(b) to (d) The above proposal will be considered when the Annual Plan 1998-99 for the State of U.P. is finalised.

Breed of Animals

1235. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the cattle population particularly of cows, bulls, she-buffalos and buffalos in Bihar in each of the last three years;

(b) the number of improved breed of animals, category-wise in previous three years;

(c) the details of work undertaken relating to improvement in the breed of animals; and

(d) the financial assistance extended by the Union Government for improvement of the breed of animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The projected population of cattle and buffalos in Bihar for the last three years is given below:

| Year | (Nos. in lakh) | | | |
|---------|----------------|-------|--------------|-------------|
| | Cows | Bulls | She buffalos | He buffalos |
| 1995-96 | 109.4 | 120.5 | 41.0 | 15.6 |
| 1996-97 | 110.7 | 122.0 | 41.8 | 15.9 |
| 1997-98 | 112.1 | 123.5 | 42.6 | 16.2 |

(b) The estimated population of cross-breed animals for the last three years is as under:

| Year | (Nos. in' 000) | | |
|---------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | Cross-breed Cattle | Cross-breed Sheep | Cross-breed Pigs |
| 1995-96 | 204 | 46 | 28 |
| 1996-97 | 209 | 46 | 29 |
| 1997-98 | 213 | 47 | 29 |

(c) and (d) Under the Central Sector Plan Scheme, Technology Mission on Dairy Developemnt, an investment of Rs.138.84 lakhs (provisional) has been made till 31.3.98 for strengthening the forzen semen stations of Patna and Ranchi. Further an amount of Rs.156.50 lakhs (provisional) has been released under this scheme for reviving the non-functional artificial insemination centres in Bihar.

SCs/STs Reservation

1236. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Office Memoranda dated January 30, 1997, July 22, 1997 and August 13, 1997 issued by the Department of Personnel and Training is likely to affect adversely the interest of SCs/STs;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for the issuance of these memoranda;

(c) whether the Government propose to review such memoranda; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Office Memoranda dated January 30, July 2, July 22, August 13, and August 29, 1997 respectively relate to review of seniority of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who on account of reservation policy are granted promotion in priority to their senior general candidate. Introduction of post-based roster, withdrawal of relaxations of qualifying marks and standards of evaluation for SCs and STs in matter of reservation in promotion, continuation of reservation in promotion for SCs and STs beyond 15.11.1997 and ceiling of 50% on total reservation for all categories.

(c) and (d) All the above Office Memoranda except the Office Memorandum dated August 13, 1997 have been issued to implement the law laid down by the Supreme Court in various judgements and, hence, there is no scope for review. Office Memorandum dated August 13, 1997 provides for continuation of reservation in promotion for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes beyond 15.11.1997. But for this Office Memorandum reservation in promotion would have ceased after 15.11.1997 in view of Supreme Court judgement in the case of Indira Sawhney. Review of this Office Memorandum is not called for.

Missile Boat

1237. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the new-item Capioned "Pak building missile boat with Chinese assistance" in the *Hindustan Times*, dated May 2, 1998;

(b) if so, whether the construction of missile boat by Pak has created tension in the region;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to have discussion with Chinese/Pakistani counterparts on this issue, and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government have seen reports regarding the construction of a missile boat by Pakistan with China's assistance. Government have made it clear that such developments pose a threat to India's security and are not conducive to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region.

(c) and (d) Government have consistently indicated India's willingness to engage in a constructive dialogue with