

**Agreement with Russia**

1255. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Russia has signed a work plan for 1998 and 1999 for cooperation in agriculture and allied areas ;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement signed ;

(c) to what extent India is likely to be benefited by the said agreement; and

(d) the time by which the agreement is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The following two agreements have been signed with the Government of Russia/Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences (RAAS):

- (i) Agreement between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and RAAS on 5.10.95 for Cooperation in the field of Agricultural Research and related subjects.
- (ii) Agreement between the Government of Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on 25.3.97 for Cooperation in the field of Plant Quarantine and Plant Protection.

In pursuance of Article II and III of the Agreement dated 5.10.95, a Work Plan was signed between ICAR and RAAS on 25.11.97 for 1998 and 1999 for co-operation in Agricultural research and related subjects. Under this work plan, 36 scientists from different ICAR Institutes and State Agricultural Universities shall get training in the Institutes of RAAS to enhance their knowledge and skills in disciplines of crop sciences, animal sciences, fisheries, horticulture, biotechnology, soil etc. The ICAR will also get germplasm of temperate fruits, forage crops, small ruminants, pigs etc.

No Work Plan has been signed under the agreement in the field of Plant Quarantine and Plant Protection. This agreement aims at the prevention of penetration and spreading of quarantine pests, plant diseases and weeds on the territory of both countries, as well as for further development of trade and exchange of planting material, and agricultural, forest and plant produce between the two countries.

(d) The Work Plan signed between ICAR and RAAS under the Agreement dated 5.10.95 stipulates implementation by 31.12.1999.

**Technology Mission on Black Pepper**

1256. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sought help for improving the quality and quantity of black pepper and the spice cultivation in the State ;

(b) if so, whether the assistance has been provided by the Union Government to the Government of Kerala for launching the Technology Mission on Black Pepper; and

(c) if so, the details of the assistance extended by the Government for increasing the production/cultivation in Kerala State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Government of Kerala had submitted a report on Technology Mission on Black Pepper to the Planning Commission for improving production, productivity and quality of black pepper in the State. The State Government of Kerala has proposed the Technology Mission for Black Pepper for implementation as a State activity and envisages to pool the available resources and efforts and integrate the activities of all State and Central institutions/agencies located in the State involved in the development of black pepper.

(b) and (c) Since the activities identified in the Technology Mission Black Pepper involve inter-governmental and inter-Ministerial coordination, Planning Commission has sought the views of the concerned departments. Final decision has not been taken with regard to financial implications of various participating agencies/departments on the proposed Mission.

Ministry of Agriculture has, however been supporting the production programme for black pepper and other spices under its Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for Development of Spices (IPDS). Under this programme, the Government of India have released Rs. 1349.92 lakhs to Government of Kerala during 1997-98. Of this Rs. 9.24 crores were earmarked for development of black pepper, which include most of the production components of the proposed Technology Mission. These programmes are proposed to be continued during 1998-99 as well.

**Dairy Development**

1257. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal received from the Government of Kerala seeking funds for Technology Mission on Dairy Development is pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;