

(a) whether the Government are aware that Sheep and Goat rearing plays an important role in providing employment and income to the economically backward rural masses;

➤ (b) if so, the details of the strategy worked out for the development of this sector;

(c) the funds allocated and physical targets fixed for Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the Fourth Plan a Central Sheep Breeding Farm was established in collaboration with Australian Government at Hissar, to produce exotic pure-bred and cross-bred rams and distribute them to State Governments.

Since 7th Five Year Plan a Centrally sponsored scheme on National Ram/Buck Production Programme and Programme for Rabbit Development is in operation for strengthening of infrastructure, purchase of equipment/machinery and animals.

The recommendations of the Task Force on Sheep, Goat and Rabbit production (April 1996) have been circulated to the respective State Governments, for adhering to the strategies of:

(i) Breeding for more efficient, Sturdy, prolific type of animals for both extensive (low inputs) and intensive (feed-let) system.

(ii) To improve and develop the infrastructure including livestock market, transportation and holding facilities, abattoirs, disease control, quality certification laboratories, farmer organisations, export promotion, and

(iii) Breed improvement through selection by using nucleus flocks and farms, open nucleus production programme and ram rearing units; and by cross-breeding of non-descriptive sheep.

The thrust of goat development is towards enhancing meat production, processing and marketing, enhancing goat milk production in dual performance breeds to meet household requirements and emerging market for goat milk-cheese.

(c) Funds allocated and physical target fixed for Ninth Five Year Plan are as follows:

	Scheme	Ninth Plan (Rs. in crores)	Physical target
(i)	National Ram/Buck/Rabbit Development	15.00	First cum first served
(ii)	Central Sheep Breeding Farm Hissar.	12.50	4250 Rams
(iii)	National Sheep Goat Development Board.	2.50	—

(d) Question does not arise in view of the above.

#### Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme

1060. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

➤ (a) whether the guidelines have been revised by the Government to include minor irrigation projects under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that funds earmarked for minor irrigation projects under AIBP during 1998-99 are utilised during the current financial year itself?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) to (c) A proposal *inter alia* to include Surface Minor Irrigation Schemes of North-Eastern States and Hilly States of Himachal Pradesh, J&K and Sikkim has been prepared. No funds has been earmarked separately for Minor Irrigation Projects under AIBP during current financial year *i.e.* 1998-99.

#### **Awards for Agricultural Production**

1061. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the productivity awards are given for increased production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of criteria fixed for such awards during the last three years; and

(d) the action being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):  
(a) National productivity Awards are given for increased productivity to agencies and organisations engaged in agriculture production and post-harvest operations.

(b) Fourteen awards are given each year. Details are given in the attached Statement.

(c) and (d) For each sub-sector, an Expert-cum-Jury Committee determines specific sets of parameters for evaluation of the entries received. The parameters are both quantitative and qualitative. The quantitative parameters in various sub-sectors of agriculture include Yield Performance, Cropping Intensity, Irrigation Intensity, adoption of High Yielding Varieties, use of modern inputs, Manpower Productivity, Extension activities etc. The qualitative factors include Product Quality and Quality Improvement, Export Orientation, Human Resource Development, Farm Women Empowerment.

The awards given by the Government recognize excellence in performance within each sub-sector to motivate others to enhance productivity.

#### **Statement**

##### **National Productivity Awards in Agriculture Sub-Sector**

1. Agricultural Extension Services
2. Animal Feed Processing Industry
3. Bio-Fertilizer Producers
4. Command Area Development and Irrigation Projects
5. Dairy Development & Production in Cooperative and Public Sector
6. Dryland Farming Projects
7. Horticulture Development in Co-operative Sector
8. Inland and Marine Fish Production in Co-operative Sector
9. Poultry Production and Development
10. Seeds Corporation in Public Sector
11. State Agro Industries Corporation
12. State Farms Corporation
13. State Marketing & Oilseeds Federation in Co-operative Sector
14. Warehousing Corporations.

*[Translation]*

#### **Support Price for Paddy and Wheat**

1062. SHRI RAJO SINGH:  
SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed the minimum support prices for paddy and wheat for the year 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details thereof;