

(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;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the support prices are likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) The Government has already fixed the minimum support prices for paddy and wheat for the 1998-99 crop year as under:—

	(Rs. per quintal)
Paddy common	440
Paddy Grade 'A'	470
Wheat	550

[English]

Motorisation of Traditional Craft

1063. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme to provide assistance to motorise traditional craft of fishermen;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount earmarked for the scheme during 1998; and

(d) the assistance being given to the State of Maharashtra under this scheme?

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) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Motorisation of Traditional Craft is under implementation in the country from Seventh Five Year Plan onwards. The scheme helps the traditional fishermen to extend the area of their fishing operation, to reduce physical strain and to return to shore quickly with the catch in prime condition. Fifty percent cost of the engine is provided as subsidy under the scheme limited to Rs. 10,000/- per outboard motor and Rs. 12,000/- per inboard motor. The cost of subsidy is shared equally by the Centre and the State and met fully by the Centre for Union Territories.

(c) An amount of Rs. 100 lakhs has been earmarked under the scheme during the financial year 1998-99.

(d) No assistance has been given to the State of Maharashtra so far during 1998-99 since there is no demand from the State Government.

[Translation]

Agricultural Forestry and Orchard

1064. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL:
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to promote agricultural forestry and orchard in the country especially in Bihar;

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

(c) the steps taken by the 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) to (c) As regards promotion of Orchards is concerned, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on "Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone Fruits" since the 8th Five Year Plan. Under this scheme, assistance is being provided for production of quality planting material through small and large nurseries, establishment of tissue culture units in the public and private sector, area expansion, improving productivity of old/senile orchards, taking up of publicity measures and training of farmers. The scheme is being continued during 1998-99 at an outlay of Rs. 25.00 crores in all States including Bihar. The position regarding release of funds to the Government of Bihar during 1997-98 and 1998-99 is as follows:

(Rs. in lakh)		
Year	Allocation	Funds released
1997-98	81.72	71.72
1998-99	71.00	20.00 (till 2/99)

As regards Agro-forestry is concerned, information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.