

(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.