

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the preventive measures taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) a public sector undertaking (PSU) of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) at present operates three underground uranium mines at Jaduguda, Bhatin and Narawapahar, a mill at Jaduguda for processing the ore from all the mines and two plants at Mosabani and Rakha for recovering uranium from the copper tailings from the Hindustan Copper Limited. All these facilities are located in the East Singhbhum District of Bihar.

(b) to (e) Neither any employee of UCIL nor any nearby villager has been affected by radiation due to the mining operations of the company. Since the inception of this company, the radiation exposure to the employees and the radiation level in and around the plants have been constantly monitored by the Health Physics Unit of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, a constituent unit of this Department. The radiation exposure to miners are well below the prescribed permissible limits and the background radiation level at Jaduguda is also similar to that in the surrounding areas. Recently, a door-to-door health survey of inhabitants residing within 2 Km. radius area around UCIL was conducted by a team of medical officers from the State Government and UCIL hospital along with the scientists at the Health Physics Unit of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, stationed at Jaduguda. The team visited seventeen villages and examined about 4000 persons. Initial survey was followed by detailed pathological and other tests at UCIL Hospital, Tata Main Hospital, Jamshedpur and Tata Mehrabai Cancer Hospital at the end of which 29 cases were short-listed for further examination. Accordingly an expert team of Medical Doctors & Health Physicists from BARC, Mumbai visited the Jaduguda site. These experts alongwith Doctors from the State Government, UCIL and Tata Main Hospital re-examined the short listed cases.

Their unanimous conclusion is that the disease pattern in the area cannot be attributed to radiation exposure in any of these cases. All steps required for controlling radiation within permissible limits have always been and continue to be taken as a preventive measure.

[Translation]

Production of Food Product

1093. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any action plan to increase the production of food products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the action plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Government is implementing a number of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes within the frame-work of the 9th Five Year Plan to increase the production of food products in the agriculture sector.

(b) and (c) For the Ninth Five year Plan the Planning Commission has made an allocation of Rs. 9153.86 crore inclusive of an allocation of Rs. 1400 crore under the Special Action Plan for Doubling Food Production in next ten years to the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. With this, foodgrain production will go up to 234 million tonnes at the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan as compared to a target of 210 million tonnes set by the Planning Commission for the Eighth Five Year Plan.

[English]

Economic Advisory Council

1094. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have revived the Economic Advisory Council;

(b) if so; the composition thereof; and

(c) the reasons for taking a decision to revive the Economic Advisory Council?

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) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The present Economic Advisory Council is a new initiative of the Prime Minister and is called the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. The composition of the Council is as under:

Chairman	Prime Minister
Members	Dr. I.G. Patel Prof. P.N. Dhar Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia Dr. Arjun Sengupta Dr. Kirit Prikh Dr. Amaresh Bagchi Dr. Ashok Desai Shri G.V. Ramakrishna Principal Secretary to Prime Minister
Member Secretary	Secretary to Prime Minister

The Economic Advisory Council will afford an opportunity for a policy dialogue on crucial economic issues between the Prime Minister and Members of the Council.

Production of Paddy

1095. SHRI TEJVEER SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the varieties of paddy grown in the country at present;

(b) the details of the yield of these varieties per acre;

(c) the varieties of paddy which have been successful in increase the production rice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) A total of 530 rice varieties have been released in the country for various ecosystems since the establishment of All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project in 1965. the currently popular varieties of paddy are given in attached statement.

(b) The varieties released for irrigated ecosystems have yield potential of 20-28 q. per acre. Rainfed uplands varieties have a yield potential of 12-16 q. per acre and those for rainfed shallow lowlands have a yield potential of 16-20 q. per acre.

(c) A number of improved varieties of paddy have been successful in increasing the production of rice. A few important ones are: IR8, Jaya, Mahsuri, Ratna, Kalinga III, IR36, PantDhan4, Savitri, Gayatri, Swarna, Manoharsaku, Rasi, Kranti, PR106, PR108.

(d) The introduction and rapid spread of high yielding varieties since late sixties and the early seventies resulted in phenomenal increase in production of rice. The growth in area was from 36.44 million hectare in 1967-68 to 43.28 million hectare in 1996-97. The production during the period increased from 37.6 million tonnes to 81.31 million tonnes. During this period, the grain yield per acre is almost doubled.

Statement

Popular Rice varieties released for different eco-systems

State	Eco-system	Names of the varieties
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	Irrigated	Tella Hamsa, Surekha, Erramallelu, Krishna Hamsa, Triguna*
	Rainfed upland	Tulasi*, Aditya*