

RICE HYBRIDS RELEASED.

State	Hybrid
Andhra Pradesh	APRH-1, APPRH-2, DDRH-1
Tamil Nadu	MGR-1, CORH-1, ADTRH-1, PHB-71
Karnataka	KRH-1, KRH-2
West Bengal	CNRH-3
Maharashtra	Sahyadri, PHB-71
Uttar Pradesh	Pant Shankar Dhan-1, Narender Shankar Dhan-2, PHB-71
Haryana	PBH-71

Natural Calamity

1096. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "A night no one wants to be in the largest graveyard on earth" appearing in the *Indian Express* dated February 3, 1999;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to make this largest graveyard liveable and put to proper use?

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) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Production of Oilseeds

1097. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the research and development work has been undertaken in the agricultural research institutions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount spent by these research institutions in the States during each of the last three years?

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) At the national level research and development work for improvement of oilseed crops has been carried out by three National Research Centres (NRC's) viz. NRC on Groundnut, Junagarh, NRC on Soyabean, Indore, NRC on Rapeseed and Mustard, Bharatpur and one Directorate of Oilseed research located at Hyderabad. In addition, research is also conducted under All India Coordinated Research Project on different oilseed crops at over 100 centres in different state agricultural universities and its regional centres. The Government of India has also constituted a Technology Mission for promotion of oilseed development in the country. Under this Mission, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, provides funds through centrally sponsored scheme on oilseed production programme to different State Government on 75:25 basis.

As a result of intensive research in different oilseed crops, a number of improved varieties and hybrids have been developed and released for cultivation in different areas and situations. Appropriate crop production and plant protection technologies have also been developed to realise maximum yield potential of improved varieties.

As a result of these research efforts the total oilseed production has more than doubled during last one decade from 11.27 million tonnes in 1986-87 to 24.96 million tonnes in 1996-97.

(c) An amount of Rs. 2376.44 lakhs under Plan and Rs. 853.17 lakhs under Non-Plan was provided for research on nine oilseed crops namely, groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, sunflower, safflower, soyabean, linseed, sesame, niger and castor during the last three years as per details given in attached Statement-I.

In addition, an amount of Rs. 1750 lakh was provided by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India through ICAR to different research and development institutions in the country for breeder seed production and frontline demonstrations.

An amount of Rs. 26788 lakhs was also provided by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation under a centrally sponsored oilseeds production programme to

different states for purchase of critical inputs and the cost is shared by the Centres and State Governments on 75:25 basis (Statement-II) attached.

Statement-I

Funds provided for Oilseeds Research during the last 3 years (Rs. in lakhs)

Institute/AICRP	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98		Total	
	Plan	Non Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	*NP
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Directorate of Oilseeds Research and AICRP on Oilseeds	141.16	101.99	161.58	134.99	469.56	190.00	772.30	426.98
National Research Centre on Groundnut	79.99	66.08	91.87	71.34	92.37	99.11	264.23	236.53
AICRP on Groundnut	57.22	—	53.20	—	57.17	—	167.59	—
National Research Centre on Rapeseed and Mustard	74.06	—	69.44	—	92.00	82.61	235.50	82.61
AICRP on Rapeseed and Mustard	57.62	—	58.19	—	58.97	—	174.78	—
National Research Centre on Soyabean	91.79	28.38	99.44	37.98	49.54	40.69	240.77	107.05
AICRP on Soyabean	28.35	—	27.49	—	55.00	—	110.84	—
Hybrid Research on Oilseeds	56.18	—	59.41	—	55.12	—	171.35	—
A.P. Cess Fund	22.88	—	65.08	—	151.12	—	239.08	—
Total	609.25	196.45	685.70	244.37	1080.85	412.41	2376.44	853.17

* NP = Non Plan

Statement-II

*Funds provided by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of
Agriculture for developmental activities*

(Rupees in lakhs)

Purpose	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	Total
Funds to ICAR for Breeder Seed production and Frontline Demonstrations	920	330	500	1750
To State Governments under oilseed production programme	9400	8469	8919	26788
Total	10320	8799	9419	28538

*[English]***Modernisation of Passport Office**

1098. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to modernise and computerise all the Passport Offices in the country;

(b) if so, the name of the Passport Offices which have been computerised so far;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to modernise and computerise and also improve the working of Regional Passport Offices in Bhubaneswar; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Yes.

(b) The Passport Offices at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, Chandigarh, Chennai, Cochin, Delhi, Goa, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kozhikode, Lucknow, Mumbai, Trichy and Trivandrum have been computerised.

(c) and (d) A comprehensive project to computerise and modernise all Passport Offices is under formulation.

Assure Career Progression

1099. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement the "Assure Career Progression Scheme" to augment the career prospects of Central Government Officers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) the recommendations of Fifth Central Pay Commission about Assured Career Progression Scheme for the Central Government employees are under consideration of the Government. However, the Government has already decided in principle to allow atleast two financial upgradations to Group-C and Group-D employees in a career. The modalities in this regard are being worked out.

*[Translation]***Regarding Atrocities on Indians**

1100. SHRI ADITYANATH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: