

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Government have received many representations from the Members of Parliament namely Shri J. Chitharanjan, Shri Vayalar Ravi, Shri V.V. Raghavan, Shri P.C. Chacko, Shri P.C. Thomas and also a group of Members of Parliament from Kerala and organisations like M/s Arimpur Panchayat, Kera Karshaka Samithy, Thrissur, Kerala and India Coconut Growers Association, Tumkur, Karnataka for fixing the minimum support price (MSP) of copra at substantially higher levels.

(c) The Government have announced the MSP for copra of fair Average Quality (FAQ) at Rs. 3100 per quintal for milling copra and Rs. 3325 per quintal for Ball copra for the 1999 season on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of the State Governments and Central ministries as well as other relevant factors. The MSPs announced for the 1999 season are higher by Rs. 200 per quintal for both grades of copra over their respective MSPs announced for the last year.

Reopening of Stillwell Road

1111. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has proposed to reopen the Stillwell Road linking Assam with Myanmar and China, which has been lying unused since World War II; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon, indicating the regulations to be enforced with opening of the Road to check illegal trade and exodus of infiltrants through this route?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Information is being collected from the Government of Assam.

[*Translation*]

Centrally Sponsored Schemes

1112. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study regarding effective implementation of various Centrally sponsored schemes in Bihar has been conducted by Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Union Government to implement these schemes effectively?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is attached.

Statement

Study regarding effective Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Bihar

Education

As far as education sector is concerned, a Study was conducted by Programme Evaluation Organisation (NFE) on the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of non-formal education in six States of the country including Bihar. The study covered only three districts of Bihar i.e. Patna, Madhepura and Purbi Champaran. Some of the important findings of the study relating to Bihar are as under:

2. The percentage growth in number of non-formal centres from 1992-93 to 1996-97 was nearly 30%. As against the requirement 3.68 lakh centres in the State, at the rate of 20 children per centre, actually existing centres were only 38,000. The enrolment rate for children of 6-14 years of age in Bihar was 60.9. During 1992-97, the State has released 92% of its share for the NFE, and utilised 100% of its share. About 49.7% and 48.1% learners belonged to SC and OBC community respectively. Only 13.7% working children were enrolled in the centres of which 36.5% were dropping out. Based on the above findings, certain modifications were suggested and communicated to the Deptt. of Education.

Environment & Forests

3. No Study has been conducted to evaluate the effective implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes like Ganga Action Plan Phase-I, Phase-II, and National River Conservation Plan. However, in the meeting held on 12.07.1997, it was decided that the Chief Ministers