

State Governments have to provide land and garbage for the projects and facilities for evacuation, wheeling, banking, third-party sale and purchase by State Electricity Boards, of the Power to be generated from these projects, for which State Governments have to announce conducive policies.

(c) The National Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban, Municipal and Industrial Waste is proposed to be continued during 1998-99.

(d) A target of setting up 'Waste to Energy' projects with aggregate capacity of 5 MW, has been fixed for the year 1998-99.

Remunerative Prices for Wheat

2148. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed remunerative prices for wheat and other foodgrains for the ensuing crop-season;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the floor prices proposed by State Governments concerned and those fixed by Union Government; and

(c) how far the same are remunerative for the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) A statement showing minimum support prices fixed for wheat and other foodgrains for 1997-98 crop season is enclosed. The minimum support prices have been fixed on the basis of the recommendations of the CACP, the views of the Central Ministries, the prices suggested by the State Governments and other relevant factors. The minimum support prices fixed by the Government cover not only the cost of production but also provide a reasonable margin of profit to give incentive to farmers for investment in agriculture and adopter of improved technology.

Statement

Minimum Support Prices fixed for Wheat and other foodgrains Crops of 1997-98

(According to Crop Year)

Commodity	Variety	MSP
1	2	3
1. Paddy	Common	415
	Grade 'A'	445
2. Coarse Cereals		360
(Jowar, Bajra & Ragi)		

	1	2	3
3. Maize			360
4. Wheat			510\$
5. Barley			350
6. Gram			815
7. Arhar			900
8. Moong			900
9. Urad			900

\$ — Including a Central bonus of Rs. 55 per quintal payable on wheat offered for sale to the procurement agencies for Central pool for period from 1.4.98 to 10.6.98.

[Translation]

Reservation for Handicapped

2149. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the posts reserved for handicapped have been filled in Ministries and their subordinate departments;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase percentage of reservation for the physically handicapped persons in the Central Government services;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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 Ministries/Departments are required to ensure implementation of the orders pertaining to reservation for the physically handicapped. Instructions have been issued from time to time impressing upon all concerned to implement the reservation policy for the physically handicapped in the right earnest. Information about filling up of vacancies reserved for the physically handicapped persons is not centrally maintained.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Reservation for the physically handicapped in Groups 'C' & 'D' posts has been in force since 1977. Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 which came into force w.e.f. 1.1.1996 also provides for 3% reservation for the physically handicapped, which was found adequate at the time of the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995.

[English]

Funds to West Bengal

2150. SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have allocated funds, other than Calamity Relief Fund to the Government of West Bengal for relief towards tornado-hit areas; and

(b) if so, the total amount sanctioned and released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Cotton Production in Non-Transitional States

2151. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to grow cotton in the non-transitional States particularly in the State of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total black cotton soil areas in that State; and

(d) the result of the soil testing and growing cotton there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Government of India is assisting States including non-

traditional Cotton State of Orissa for growing cotton. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme, assistance is given to the State of Orissa for the transfer of technology through demonstration on production, integrated pest management and training of farmers as well as supply of critical inputs like seeds, plant protection equipment, sprinkler sets etc.

Besides, the Cotton Corporation of India in the Ministry of Textiles is also encouraging the cultivation of cotton in non-traditional areas like Sundarban in West Bengal, Orissa, Jammu Division in Jammu and Kashmir through supply of seed, training of farmers, marketing of cotton produce etc.

(c) The total black cotton soil in the State is 9.6 lakh hectares.

(d) The soil pH is neutral to alkaline having free calcium carbonate in the profiles. The soil is rich in calcium but deficient in Phosphorus, Potassium, Zinc and Boron. Besides, black soil, major portion of cotton is grown on loamy soils.

Production of Tobacco

2152. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of tobacco produced in the country particularly in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the land area for tobacco production has been increased during the above period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The area under tobacco has been increasing during the last three years. A statement giving State-wise area and production of tobacco for the last three years is attached.

Statement

STATE	AREA (Thousand Hectares)			PRODUCTION (Thousand Tonnes)		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	130.5	136.2	164.4	164.5	170.3	183.3
Assam	1.7	1.6	1.6	0.9	0.8	0.8