

(c) the details of such employees with respect to the department in which they were working and the nature of job taken up by them in the private sector;

(d) the number of retired gazetted employees of the Central Government who sought permission to take up jobs in the private sector within two years of their retirement;

(e) the number of such retired employees who were granted permission;

(f) the details with respect to such retired employees regarding the nature of their work in Government service and in the private service;

(g) whether any such retired employee took up work in private sector without Government permission; and

(h) if so, details thereof including action taken against each of them?

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) Central Government servants are not permitted to take up jobs in private sector.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) to (h) Information is not centrally maintained.

[Translation]

Loss of Production due to Bio-Technic

2207. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news appearing in 'Dainik Jagran' dated May 16, 1998 regarding the likely loss to be suffered by the farmers worldwide, as a new bio-technic has been got patented in USA as reported by the Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI), Canada in its report;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A patent No. 5723765 has been granted in the United States of America for a technology which is claimed to introduce a 'Terminator' gene and prevent germination of seed if replanted a second time. Since

there is very little import of seeds into India, there is no reason to believe that this US Patent will have any significant impact in India. Moreover, farmers are free not to purchase any such seed.

[English]

Price of Cotton/Chilli

2208. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was sudden fall in the price of cotton and chilli in the open market;

(b) if so, the present market price of cotton and chilli as compared to last three years;

(c) whether the farmers price of Cotton Corporation of India should participate in the Market Intervention Scheme and have urged for fixation of remunerative price for cotton at Rs. 2,350 per quintal; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The prices of cotton and chilli have generally been showing a rising trend except for abnormal increase in cotton prices in May, 1995. This is evident from the movement of wholesale price index numbers of cotton and chilli during the current and last three years as given below:

Wholesale Price Index

(Base 1981-82 = 100)

Period	Cotton	Chilli
May, 1995	407.4	286.6
May, 1996	298.1	400.1
May, 1997	327.2	350.2
May, 1998	370.8	410.0

(c) and (d) No such proposal has been received in this regard by Cotton Corporation of India (CCI). However, CCI always participates in the open auction taking place in market yards for sale of Kapas. As cotton is covered under the minimum support price the Government procures cotton at the MSP whenever prices fall below the support price.