

(c) if so, the details of the achievements made by the Government under the said scheme during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on table of the Sabha.

Production of Wheat

2236. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have felt the need to draw a long-term plan to boost the production of wheat to meet the growing demands by 2000 A.D.; and

(b) if so, the various strategies proposed to be adopted by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To boost the production of wheat so as to meet the demand by 2000 A.D. the implementation of on-going centrally sponsored "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Wheat)" is proposed to be continued with some modifications during the Ninth Five Year Plan. Besides, the implementation of "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice)" and "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals)", which include the wheat development programmes would also continue. These schemes are to supplement the efforts of State Govt. in increasing the production and productivity of cereal crops. The strategy proposed to be adopted for increasing the production of wheat and other foodgrains includes increasing the coverage under high yielding varieties, stepping up the use of plant nutrients, improving irrigation facilities, propagating the use of water saving devices like sprinkler irrigation system, development of efficient water harvesting and conservation methods, etc.

World Bank Assistance

2237. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had taken a number of steps to improve agricultural production with the help of World Bank and other foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the extent to which it has increased the production of agricultural commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. At present, various World Bank Aided and Bilateral/Multilateral projects are under implementation.

(b) The Agricultural Production is influenced by a number of factors. The on-going World Bank Aided Projects and Bilateral/Multilateral Projects are also supplementing the, on-going efforts of the State Governments for increasing production. The extent of increase in the production of Agricultural Commodities because of the implementation of Externally Aided Projects cannot be assessed separately as all the measures intended for increasing productivity and production have the bearing on overall production.

Desilting of Reservoirs

2238. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have evolved any Action Plan to remove the silt accumulated in various dams and reservoirs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to check the soil erosion in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which all dams and reservoirs of the country are likely to be desilted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. Soil erosion and silting of reservoirs are natural phenomenae and provisions are made in the reservoirs for accommodating silt. Generally, the reservoirs are planned for a life of 100 years. Soil conservation measures, afforestation and water management practices in the catchment of River Valley Projects are taken up to reduce the rate of siltation in the reservoirs to some extent.

Honey Bee

2239. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of structural and operation of National Honey Bee Keepers Association;

(b) the details of honey produced in the country during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) the details of its export to different countries, country-wise; and

(d) the facilities provided by the Government to Honey Bee Keepers?