

Co-operative Policy

1118. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated an agricultural co-operative policy to make co-operative sector more effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the policy is likely to be formulated; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) In order to facilitate all round development and economic viability of the Cooperatives and to ensure their working as autonomous self-reliant and democratically managed institutions, responsible to their members, the formulation of a National Cooperative Policy is under active consideration of the Government.

Central Agriculture Service Cadre

1119. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Central Pay Commission have recommended the creation of a Central Agriculture Service Cadre;

(b) whether the Central Government have given its clearance to the above recommendations;

(c) if so, the steps so far taken by the Union Government for the creation of the said cadre; and

(d) the time by which the final shape would be given by the Union Government to the Central Agriculture Service Cadre?

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) to (d) The recommendation is being examined in consultation with the various Divisions and views of the Department are yet to be finalised.

Crop Insurance Scheme

1120. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers benefited by the Crop Insurance Scheme during the last year;

(b) whether the Government have taken fresh measures for effective implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Number of farmers benefited under Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) during 1997-98 was 15,28,854.

(b) and (c) With a view to making the scheme more effective and enlarging the coverage in terms of farmers, crops and risks under CCIS, the Government have decided to introduce a Modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (MCCIS) from Kharif 1999 season. Under the new scheme, it is proposed to cover all farmers (both loanee and non-loanee) and commercial/horticultural crops in respect of which requisite yield data are available. Details of the new scheme are being finalised in consultation with Ministries/Departments and other agencies concerned.

[English]

Pending Projects of North-East States

1121. SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects submitted by North-East States to the Union Government for clearance during the year 1997-98 and 1998-99 upto January 31,1999;

(b) the date from which these projects are awaiting Union Government's clearance; and

(c) the reasons for not taking any decision and when a decision is likely to be taken by the Union Government?

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

[Translation]

Production of Pulses

1122. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the largest pulses growing States in the country;

(b) the present production of pulses in the country State-wise;

(c) whether the assistance has been provided to these States by the Union Government to increase the production of pulses;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the demand and supply of pulses at present;

(f) the estimated demand of pulses in the country by 2000 A.D.;

(g) the expected production of pulses by then; and

(h) the steps being taken to increase the production of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):
(a) and (b) Statewise production of pulses in the country

during the last 3 years is given in the Statement-I attached.

(c) and (d) For increasing, the production of pulses, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NRDP) is being implemented to provide support to the farmers. Under the scheme, financial assistance is given to States on various inputs like production and distribution of certified seeds, seed minikits, rhizobium culture, micronutrients, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, plant protection equipment etc. Besides, field demonstrations and farmers' trainings are also being organised for the effective transfer of improved pulses production technology. Amount released to the States under the scheme during the last 3 years is given in the Statement-II attached.

(e) The Working Group on Demand & Supply Projections of Agricultural Commodities and Improvement of Agricultural Statistics for the Formulation of 9th Five Year Plan has estimated the requirement of pulses for 1996-97 at 15.30 million tonnes. The total availability of pulses during 1997-98 was 13.57 million tonnes.

(f) and (g) The Working Group has estimated the requirement of pulses for the year 2001-02 at 17.20 million tonnes. The likely availability of pulses for the year 2001-02 as estimated by the Working Group is 17.50 million tonnes.

(h) Steps being taken to increase the production of pulses include:—

(i) use of improved seeds of high yielding varieties;

(ii) balanced use of nutrients;

(iii) application of sulphur;

(iv) integrated pest management;

(v) use of sprinkler irrigation;

(vi) increasing area through inter-cropping and sequence cropping.