

Non-Lapsable Development Fund

1175. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of 10% Non-lapsable Development Fund earmarked for the North-Eastern States till date since the inception of this fund;

(b) the details break-up of the contribution of the Non-lapsable Fund by each Ministry/Department of the Government of India towards the fund; and

(c) the number of Ministries/Departments of the Government of India who have not yet contributed to this fund, the reasons therefor?

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) A Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources has been constituted for assisting development projects, including the infrastructure sector, in the North-East and Sikkim. The funds being credited by various Central Ministries/Departments to the Pool from out of unspent amount(s) from 10% of their Budget(s) earmarked for these States, are expected to enable meeting the initial requirements for this purpose during the current financial year.

2. The actual amount(s) that would be contributed by the Central Ministries/Departments to the Central Pool during the current financial year would be known after the end of the financial year. All Central Ministries/Departments, except those specifically exempted and those who would spend 10% or more of their Budget(s) in the North-East and Sikkim, are required to contribute to the Central Pool.

[Translation]

National Water Policy

1176. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to amend the National Water Policy for proper sharing of irrigation and drinking water among the States and to bring the subjects related to state rivers under the purview of Centre so, as to resolve inter-State water disputes permanently;

(b) if so, the details of the outlines of the policy; and

(c) the time by which the policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) A National Water Policy was adopted by National Water Resources Council, under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, in 1987. The Policy is proposed to be reviewed and updated in the context of experiences gained during the last ten years of its implementation and emerging challenges. In this context, a revised/updated draft National Water Policy has recently been finalised by the National Water Board (NWB) in its tenth meeting held on 29th October, 1998 for its further consideration and adoption by the National Water Resources Council. In addition, a draft National Policy Guidelines for Water Allocation amongst States has also been finalised by the National Water Board for consideration of the National Water Resources Council. However, there is no proposal under consideration for bringing the subject of 'Water' under the purview of the Centre.

(c) The adoption of revised/updated National Water Policy as well as the draft National Policy Guidelines for Water Allocation amongst States is dependent upon its approval by the National Water Resources Council.

[English]

Cultivation of Wheat

1177. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production and area under wheat cultivation has increased this year as compared to last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Dropsy scare and edible oil import liberalisation are responsible for the increase in area under wheat cultivation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any likely affect on production of oil seeds due to this reason; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken by Government to arrest the reduction of area under oil seeds production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) The likely area under wheat at around 26.5 million hectare this year is almost at par with that of last year. However, the production of wheat during 1998-99 is expected to be higher at 69.13 million tonnes as compared to 65.90 million tonnes last year.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The total area and production of oilseeds during 1998-99 are likely to be higher than last year. The area in 1998-99 is likely to be 27.1 million hectares as compared to 26.2 million hectares during last year whereas the production is estimated to be 24.2 million tonnes this year compared with 22.0 million tonnes during the last year.

Eighth G-15 Summit

1178. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India recently attended the Eighth G-15 Summit in Egypt;

(b) if so, the main decisions arrived at the Summit;

(c) whether India also raised the South-East Asian currency turmoil and suggested ways for promoting international financial stability; and

(d) the other issues discussed and final decision taken at the Summit?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Vice-President of India led the Indian delegation to the Eighth G-15 Summit held in Egypt in May 1998.

(b) The Eighth G-15 Summit focussed on two major themes, viz., financial crisis in East and South-East Asia and Multilateral Trading System including the WTO Ministerial Conference at Geneva. The Summit examined the different perspectives and called for comprehensive and urgent action in preventing the spread of the financial turmoil in East and South East Asia. On the issue of the Multilateral Trading System, the Summit focussed on developing country positions on various matters that were likely to be taken up at the WTO Geneva Ministerial

Conference in May 1998, as well as a positive agenda for the developing countries.

(c) India also expressed concern about the East and South-East Asian financial crisis. In the context of promoting international financial stability, India suggested transparency and effective regulation of the financial sector, improvement in development assistance to developing countries, prudential regulation and management of capital by the nerve centres of the world finance, and institutionalizing the emergency response system to deal with market failures. The Summit examined different perceptions and called for urgent action for preventing the spread of the financial contagion or similar crises in future.

(d) As to the other issues, the Summit called for the conservation of bio-diversity and the protection bio-genetic resources of developing countries. The Summit highlighted the need for a constructive and positive North-South dialogue. The Summit reiterated the importance of South-South cooperation through G-15 projects and expansion of trade, investment and transfer of technology. The Summit accepted the formal application of Sri Lanka for membership of G-15 and invited Sri Lanka to join the Ninth Summit in Jamaica in February 1999.

Indians in Nairobi

1179. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of Indians were recently arrested in Nairobi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether no proper passports were issued to these Indians; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. 16 Indian nationals were arrested by the Kenyan Police on 19.12.98.

(b) They were detained on the charge of illegal stay in the country.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. While all the 16 Indians had valid passports and visas/work permits, the Kenyan authorities suspected the authenticity of their documents.