

Sl. No.	Name of Areas of Cooperation Country
<i>ii. Countries with whom further agreements/MOUs are proposed to be signed</i>	
1.	Algeria
2.	Argentina
3.	Bangladesh
4.	Bhutan
5.	Greece
6.	Holland
7.	Iran
8.	Iraq
9.	Kenya
10.	Lebanon
11.	Mexico
12.	Morocco
13.	New Zealand
14.	Poland
15.	Romania
16.	Russia
17.	Senegal
18.	Suriname
19.	Thailand
20.	Turkey
21.	Tunisia
22.	Ukraine
23.	Uzbekistan
24.	Yugoslavia

Kashmir Issue

1196. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan raised Kashmir issue at the Commonwealth Conference.

(b) whether raising the question of Kashmir on International Forum is against the spirit of Simla agreement; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Indian Government to ensure that Simla Agreement is not violated?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The High Commissioner of Pakistan to the United Kingdom raised the Kashmir issue at the Senior Officials' Meeting of the Commonwealth in London on 9 November 1998.

(b) and (c) Under the Simla Agreement, India and Pakistan are committed to settling their differences peacefully through direct bilateral discussions and negotiations. Pakistan's attempts to raise bilateral issues in international forums are contrary to the provisions of the Simla Agreement. Government have repeatedly urged Pakistan to adhere to the Simla Agreement. It is noteworthy that in both the Lahore Declaration, signed between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, and the Memorandum of Understanding, signed between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan, on 21 February 1999, India and Pakistan have reiterated their determination to implement of Simla Agreement in letter and spirit.

Slump in Cash Crops

1197. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the slump in cash crop prices in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) details of the prices of main cash crops during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to control the fall in the cash crop prices?

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

(a) and (b) There has been decline in the prices of cotton, soyabean and onion during the recent months. The decline in prices in case of cotton, and onion have been due to higher production during the current season. The decline in price of soyabean has been due to higher production as well as decline in the prices of soyameal in the international market.

(c) The details of wholesale price indices of main cash crops during the last three years are given in the attached statement.

(d) The Government announces the Minimum Support Prices each year to provide remunerative prices to the farmers and makes arrangements for procurement through its nodal agencies. Potato and onion are covered under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). Whenever, the prices of these commodities fall below the remuneration level, the MIS is implemented on the request of concerned State Government to step up the prices of these commodities. The Government has also given permission for export of onion in order to arrest the declining trend of prices of onion.

Statement

Wholesale Price Index of Cash Crops

(1981-82 = 100)

Sl. No.	Cash Crops	1996 (10.2.96)	1997 (15.2.97)	1998 (14.2.98)	1999 (13.2.99)
1.	Cotton	324.5	296.9	373.3	359.5
2.	Jute	633.8	511.2	338.5	463.2
3.	Potato	261.7	296.3	263.4	338.6
4.	Onion	274.3	299.4	848.2	410.1
5.	Copra	312.3	445.2	336.0	405.2
	Oil Seeds	278.8	291.8	313.7	353.8
6.	Groundnut	299.0	346.3	319.1	344.5
7.	Soyabean	319.9	344.6	397.5	304.5
8.	Rapeseed & Mustard	268.3	257.5	266.5	362.1