

Statement

Yearwise details of (i) foreign technical collaborations and (ii) foreign investment-cum-technical collaborations (irrespective of level of equity) approved in the food processing sector.

Year	Number
1991-92	7
1992-93	63
1993-94	136
1994-95	148
1995-96	127
1996-97	129
1997-98	79
Total	689

[English]

Small and Marginal Farmers

*507. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the PR:ME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of small and marginal farmers in the country;

(b) to what extent the specific problem of small and marginal farmers have been solved through various Five Year Plans; and

(c) the special measures taken by the Union Government to improve the conditions of small and marginal farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The number of small and marginal holdings, as per the latest Agricultural Census (1990-91), is 20.1 and 63.4 million respectively.

(b) and (c) The Government have been striving to achieve all round development of agriculture through successive Five Year Plans by launching various developmental programmes/schemes with due emphasis on the problems of small and marginal farmers.

Presently, a host of schemes/programmes are being implemented with special concessions/subsidies on specific components to small and marginal farmers. These include subsidies/concessions in respect of sprinkler and drip irrigation systems, improved farm implements, crop insurance, credit, land levelling and ground water development. The setting up of Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium will also help generate income and employment for small and marginal farmers.

Brahmaputra Board

*503. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Brahmaputra Board has formulated any master plan for the scientific water management in Assam and other North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the present status of the Master Plan;

(c) whether the expenditure involved in the implementation of the Master Plan has been updated;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures to be taken by the Government to mobilise the resources for implementation of this plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) Brahmaputra Board has formulated Master Plans for flood management in the Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys in the North-Eastern Region which includes integrated development of water resources of Brahmaputra and Barak rivers.

(b) The Brahmaputra Board has prepared Master Plans in three parts namely, Master Plan Part-I for main stem of Brahmaputra, Master Plan Part-II for Barak river and its tributaries and Master Plan Part-III for Thirty Nine tributaries of Brahmaputra and eight rivers of Tripura. The Master Plan Part-I and Part-II have already been approved by the Union Government and sent to the States for adoption. Draft sub-basin Master Plans for Part-III have been circulated by Brahmaputra Board to the concerned North Eastern States for their comments.

(c) and (d) Expenditure involved in the implementation of Master Plans Part-I and Part-II have been updated upto 1994 and they are Rs. 91,000 crore and Rs. 4,230 crore respectively.

(e) Short term components of the Master Plans are being implemented in phases by the State Governments from the Plan funds allocated to them by the Planning Commission.

Oilseeds Research

*509. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount spent for research and development of oilseeds in the country during the last three years;