

**STATEMENT-II**

The following steps have been taken for the early disposal of passport applications:

- (i) Passport applications are scrutinised at counters and incomplete applications are returned to applicants on the spot, pointing out the deficiencies. Incomplete applications received by post are returned the same day, pointing out the deficiencies.
- (ii) Despatch of personal particular forms of applicants to the Police/CID authorities within 24 hours of their receipt.
- (iii) Periodical reminder to the Police/CID authorities and constant liaison with those authorities at various levels.
- (iv) Simplification and rationalization of passport procedures.
- (v) Deployment of additional temporary staff and provision of special incentives to staff for working on Sundays and closed holidays.
- (vi) Despatch of passports to applicants within 5 working days of the receipt of Police & CID Reports/clearance from the concerned authorities.
- (vii) The question of provision of additional staff/redeployment of staff is engaging Government's urgent attention and additional officers/staff would be provided to the passport offices to cope up with the increase in the work load as soon as possible.

(viii) Urgent measures are being taken to increase the printing of the passport booklets capacity by the India Security Press, Nasik. As a stop gap arrangement, passport booklets have been diverted to the concerned Passport Offices to meet the immediate shortfall.

(ix) The progress of disposal of passport applications is regularly monitored weekly with the help of computers by the CPV Division of the Ministry of External Affairs.

**Development of Horticulture**

8170. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA  
NARASIMHARAJA  
WADIYAR:  
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are implementing schemes for the development of horticulture;

(b) if so, the amount spent on the horticulture developmental Schemes in Seventh plan,

(c) whether Government propose to introduce some comprehensive schemes for the development of horticulture during Eighth plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the States where this scheme is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA):

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) An amount of Rs. 2401.56 lakh has been incurred on horticultural development in Seventh Plan.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). Various horticultural development programme are proposed to be implemented during Eighth Plan. The schemes that are presently under implementation are as follow;

- (i) Programmes by Coconut Development Board.
- (ii) Programmes by National Horticulture Board.
- (iii) Intensive development of fruits and vegetables.

The Programmes relating to fruits and vegetables cover all States in the country. The Coconut Development Board schemes are at present spread over Kerala, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar.

#### **Evaluation of Working of ICAR**

8171. SHRIMAJORANJAN BHAKTA  
SHRI P. NARSA REDDY  
SHRI ERA ANBARASU

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether working of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is evaluated periodically;

(b) if so, whether any such evaluation was undertaken recently; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA):

(a) to (c). Sir, the working of ICAR is reviewed as and when felt necessary. In 1987, a Committee headed by Dr. G.V.K. Rao, former Member, Planning commission looked into the infrastructure, set-up, personnel policies and working of ICAR and its Institutes, and submitted its report on 25.3.1988. The Report has been examined and the recommendations of the Committee have broadly been accepted for implementation.

#### **Paddy Cultivation in Hill Areas**

8172. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per acre production of paddy in hill areas of the country is comparatively low; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to encourage paddy cultivation in hill areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA):

(a) The Average productivity levels of rice in Hill areas of Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Mainpur and Jammu & Kashmir are higher than the national average. However, the productivity is low in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Himachal Pradesh.

(b) to encourage the cultivation of paddy, location specific High Yielding Varieties are being propagated and adoption of improved rice production technology is advocated.