

launched in 1977-78 and is now under implementation in Hot Arid Areas in 9 blocks of Banaskantha and Mehsana districts of Gujarat, 26 blocks of Bhiwani, Hissar, Rohtak and Sirsa districts of Haryana, 84 blocks of Barmer, Bikaner, Churu, Ganganagar, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Pali and Sikar districts of Rajasthan. The programme seeks to conserve, develop and harness natural resources including rainfall for restoration of ecological balance of the area in the long run.

[*Translation*]

### **Chemical Changes in Food Items**

\*1572. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Krishi Kshetar ke Ghotale" appeared in 'Navbharat Times' dated July 13, 1994;

(b) if so, whether any research is being conducted by the Government to study the chemical changes in our food items due to the use of latest varieties of fertilizers and seeds; and

(c) is so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per available information, there are no reports of adverse effect on

food items on account of the use of latest varieties of fertilizers and seeds in the country.

[*English*]

### **Patha Drinking Water Scheme**

\*1573. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Patha Drinking Water Scheme" appeared in Hindi Daily "Dainik Jagaran" dated June 9, 1994;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-operation of this scheme; and

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be in operation in its fullest capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI HARJIBHAI PATEL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### **Funds Under Urban Poverty Alleviation Programmes**

\*1574 SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:  
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:  
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the allocation of funds under the Urban Poverty Alleviation

Programmes has been reduced; and

and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OR STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b). (i) The Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) and (ii) Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP) are the two Centrally sponsored Schemes under the Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme. Since the inception of the VIIIth Five Year Plan, the funds allocated under the two schemes are as under :

Year	NRY	UBSP (Rs. in crores)
1992-93	71.00	13.00
1993-94	75.00	18.00
1994-95	70.00	18.00

It would, thus, be observed that the yearly allocations have maintained more or less a steady trend during the VIIIth Five Year Plan so far.

### **Wage Earning Programmes**

\*1575. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new guaranteed wage earning programme has been launched during 1993-94 and the current year upto June 30, 1994;

(b) whether any programmes have been launched in Andhra Pradesh also ;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) was launched on 2.10.1993 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on an 800:20 cost sharing ratio between the Centre and States. The objective of this Scheme is to provide about 100 days of assured casual labour employment during the lean agricultural season at the statutory minimum wages to all persons above 18 years and below 60 years of age in the rural areas who need and seek it. The EAS is at present being implemented in 1778 identified backward blocks in 261 districts of the country situated in Drought Prone Areas, Desert Areas, Tribal Areas and Hill Areas in which currently the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) is in operation.

(b) The Employment Assurance Scheme is being implemented in 120 blocks in 16 districts of Andhra Pradesh. Furthermore the Government of Andhra Pradesh has introduced the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme as a State Sector Scheme during 1994-95.

(c) This Scheme provide manual unskilled employment to all those who seek it round the year. 304 mandals have been selected covering 13 districts for implementation of this Scheme. Mandals having less than 20% of net sown area and current follows as per latest statistics under assured canal irrigation and other reliable and sustainable medium irrigation projects have been selected for implementation of the scheme. However, the 120 blocks that are covered under the Employment Assurance