

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Government of India has sanctioned a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on package programme for cashewnut development for implementation during the 7th Five Year Plan. The programmes covered under this scheme are intensive pest management practices, laying out demonstrations establishment of budwood nurseries, improvement of cashew by vegetative propagation etc. The total cost of the scheme is Rs. 696 lakhs.

Improvements in Agriculture in Eastern Sector

8194. DR. C.P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by Central and State Governments to improve agricultural production in Eastern Region; and

(b) whether there have been some improvements in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Special Rice Development Programme is being implemented in the Eastern States of Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal during the Seventh Five Year Plan, for improving production and productivity of rice. In addition the following Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented in Various States including the Eastern States, for improving agricultural production :

I. Centrally sponsored Schemes ;

1. National Pulses Development Project;
2. Oilseeds Production Thrust Programme;
3. National Oilseeds Development Project;
4. Assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers; and

5. Special Jute Development Programme.

II. Central Sector Scheme :

1. Minikit Programme of Rice, Wheat & Millets.

(b) Yes, Sir. The rice production in the Eastern States has gone up during 1985-86 and 1986-87 as compared to the base year of 1984-85.

Discontinuance of Import of Edible Oil

8195. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK ; Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to discontinue the import of edible oils; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Extensive Use of Insecticides

8196. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether intensive sales promotion campaigns by pesticide making firms and ignorance of farmers has resulted in the extensive use of insecticides by farmers;

(b) the estimated consumption of pesticides at present throughout the country;

(c) whether according to an expert study recently made, the DDT content in fact residues was the highest at 27 parts per million (PPM) in India;

(d) whether pesticides like DDT and Organo-chlorine insecticides, which retain their toxicity even after many years, pose a great danger to human beings and animals; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to check the high incidence of pesticides poisoning and bring home to the farmers the ill-effects of an indiscriminate use of pesticides and insecticides ?