

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1397
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2003
BIO-VILLAGE SCHEMES
RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of bio-villages schemes being operated in the country at present, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government propose to extend the bio-village concept throughout the county;
- (c) if so, the details thereof ; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) : Under this scheme five biovillage and clusters of biovillages are operational in the country. Out of these, four have been supported by the Department of Biotechnology. These are in Gujarat (Mocha village, Porbandar District); Madhya Pradesh (ten villages in five districts viz. Jabalpur, Raisen, Guna, Indore and Bhopal); Maharashtra (two villages namely Kurur and Varsoli of Raigad District) and Uttar Pradesh (fifty villages covering ten districts of Western and Central Zones).A biovillage project is also operational at Pondicherry by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai with support from the United Nations Development Programme.

(b), (c) & (d) : Yes sir. Efforts have been made to identify location specific biotechnology interventions for the establishment of new biovillages. Areas to be covered would include: application of biofertilisers and biopesticides; vermicomposting; cultivation of mushroom, spirulina and high yielding sugarcane varieties; aquaculture including pisciculture and prawn rearing; and sericulture. Post-harvest technologies, development of entrepreneurship in vegetable dyes and herbal products have also been included. Many of the components which are highly region/location-specific, would be tailored to the needs of the local stakeholders. Beneficiaries/target groups have also been identified. From the ongoing biovillage schemes, there has been a positive response from the target population.