

the information made available by the State Government, a severe cyclone on 9.6.1998 affected 12 districts in Gujarat in varying degrees, causing loss of 1178 human lives, killing 12747 heads of cattle, damaging 2.61 lakh houses and huts and causing substantial loss to public property. In Rajasthan, the cyclone reportedly caused a loss of 12 human lives and 51295 cattle heads and damaged 14603 houses/huts.

(c) and (d) The Home Minister visited the affected areas of Gujarat alongwith a team of senior officials on 11.6.1998 for an on-the-spot assessment of the extent of damage as well as rescue and relief operations being undertaken. Their impressions were that vast damage had been caused to human life and private and public property like houses, huts, electric lines, telecom lines, Kandla Port, and some railway infrastructure, etc. The state Government was doing its best in taking rescue and restoration measures. Other Ministers and Senior Officers from the Centre also visited the State to assess damage caused by the cyclone and to initiate and step up action for restoration of normalcy.

(e) and (f) The Government of Gujarat has submitted a memorandum seeking additional assistance of Rs. 500 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief for providing relief and rehabilitation to the affected people.

(g) and (h) No, Sir. the Government of Rajasthan took elaborate preparatory measures well in time.

(i) Immediately after the occurrence of the calamity, the second installment of Centre's share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1998-99 amounting to 29.03 crore was released to the Government of Gujarat in advance on 10.6.1998 to enable the State Government to speed up the relief work. The second installment of Centre's share of CRF for 1998-99 amounting to Rs. 37.23 crore was released to Government of Rajasthan on 1.7.1998.

In response to the memorandum submitted by the Government of Gujarat for assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team has already visited the affected areas in the State to assess the extent of damage and relief assistance required and has submitted its report. Further action will be taken as per the established procedure for release of additional assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief.

Flood Control

*316. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :
SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISHRA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire country suffers from flood havoc every year;

(b) whether any scheme is being formulated by the Government to make the river bed deeper so as to avoid floods in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the Government intends to provide protection from such flood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Floods of varying magnitude occur in some parts of the country every year.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Planning and implementation of flood protection works are the responsibility of the State Government. Over the years, the State Government have been executing various flood management measures such as construction of embankments and drainage channels, anti erosion works etc. apart from providing flood storages in selected multipurpose reservoirs. Apart from the above structural measures, non-structural measures such as flood forecasting, flood plain zoning and flood proofing are also being taken. Central Government has been providing flood forecasting services on all important river systems of the country.

[English]

Sharing of Ganga Water

*317. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the Ganga water sharing treaty with Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

HVV of Wheat

*318. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Scientists are working on high yielding wheat varieties to get more output than the current best varieties;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these varieties of wheat are likely to be supplied to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Intensive research efforts are under way to develop superior high yielding wheat cultivars. A three pronged approach is being applied in wheat breeding which includes:

- (i) Development of superior genotypes with improved yield attributing character.
- (ii) Development of hybrid wheat.
- (iii) Application of molecular biology and marker aided selection for combining quality traits with high yield.

(c) Crop improvement for desired traits like higher yield and resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses is a continuous process. Such new improved varieties are released every year. However, a quantum jump is expected in the next 5-10 years.

Agricultural Research

*319. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides funds to State Governments for their agricultural research institutions;

(b) if so, the total fund provided during the 8th Five Year Plan; and

(c) the achievements made by such institutions during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The approximate total funds allocated during 8th Five Year Plan by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to Centres of All India Co-ordinated Research Project (AICRPs) and Project Directorates (PDs) in State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and few other Research Centres under States Governments were Rs. 353.84 crore.

(c) These institutions are Centres of AICRPs and PDs located in SAUs and few other Centres in the States.

As important components of National Agricultural Research System, they make significant contribution in National efforts on Varietal/Breed Improvement and technology Development Programme and also support in multi-locational testing.

Several high yielding and promising varieties and hybrids were evolved and released during this period. These varieties are for food crops, fodder crops, pulses, oilseeds, commercial crops, horticultural crops (fruits, vegetables, plantation crops, mushrooms, flowers). The techniques have been developed for Integrated Pest Management, Integrated Nutrient Management, Input Use Efficiency, Soil and Water Management, Cropping Systems including Crop Rotations, Post Harvest Technology, Small Farm Implements and Tools. High yielding breeds of cattle, poultry, sheep, goat and other livestock etc. have also been evolved.

The consolidated achievements of National Varietal/Breed Improvement and Technology Development Programmes including the achievements of Centres of AICRPs located at SAUs are included in the Annual Reports of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) and laid in both Houses of Parliament every year.

Permanent Seat in UN Security Council

*320. SHRI VAIKO :
SHRI KAMAL NATH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has almost lost its chances of getting a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council because of its recent Nuclear tests;

(b) the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):
(a) Discussions on Security Council restructuring are continuing in the Open Ended Working Group of the UN General Assembly. India's candidature for permanent membership in any expansion of the UN Security Council remains on the table.