

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the selling price of seeds and pesticides are realistic to their actual cost of production;

(d) if so, whether the Government have any programme to control and regulate the prices of seeds and pesticides to realistic level; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) As a part of the exercise for estimating the cost of production of various crops for fixing the minimum support price, there is a scheme for studying the cost of cultivation of principal crops. The cost of input such as seed, fertilizer and insecticide is estimate for the following crops:

Paddy, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, barley, arhar, moong, urad, gram, groundnut, soyabean, sunflowerseed, rapeseed/mustard, toria, safflower, copra, sesamum, nigersaed, cotton, jute, tobacco and sugarcane

(c) to (e) There is no policy of relating the selling price of seeds and pesticides to the cost of production and exercising statutory control on the selling price.

Co-operatives

3062. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Involve weaker sections in co-operative sector" appearing in the 'The Hindu' dated June 5, 1998;

(b) if so, the relation of the Government thereto;

(c) the steps being taken for providing Constitutional protection to co-operatives on the line of Panchayati Raj;

(d) whether public and private sectors have been recognised for Plan and non-Plan funds; and

(e) if so, the reasons for neglecting the co-operative sector?

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

(b) Government are in agreement with the view that cooperative sector should play its due role in eliminating rural as well as urban poverty. The weaker sections have

been participating in the cooperative movement. However, their involvement need to be strengthened and made more active. There is also a need for greater transparency and accountability in cooperatives for ensuring their healthy growth. Government has been giving due encouragement to the cooperatives through various policies and programmes so that they an function in an effective manner for achieving various socio-economic objectives.

(c) Cooperatives are voluntary institutions and, therefore, constitutional protection to them on the lines of Panchayati Raj institutions is not considered necessary.

(d) and (e) The existing classification of Government expenditure into Plan and non-Plan expenditure is based on certain criteria and such a classification perse does not result in any neglect of the financial requirements of the cooperatives

Industry for Utilisation of Maize in Bihar

3083. SHRI RAJ BANSHI MAHTO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the production of maize in Bihar;

(b) whether there is no industry for the utilisation of maize in the State resulting thereby that the farmers of the State have to sell their production of maize below the administered price fixed by the Government from time to time;

(c) whether the Government have any plan/ programme to set any industry based on maize either in public or in private sector in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the place where it is propped to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Foreign Commercial Service Office

3084. SHRI CHANDULAL AJMEERA :
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to accord clearance for the establishment of a US and Foreign Commercial Service Office at Hyderabad; and