

(b) the assistance utilised by these states so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The Plan Schemes being operated by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries are Central Schemes and financial assistance under these schemes is provided to cooperatives, non-governmental organisations, public sector undertakings, private sector industries, research institutions etc. for the development of processed food sector including setting up of food processing industries and Food Processing & Training Centres. No assistance is provided to State Governments.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Development Board

4211. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bihar Government has requested the Central Government for setting up a separate Development Board for the development of backward people in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir. The Planning Commission has not received any such proposal from the Government of Bihar.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Pay Scales of Employees of Kendriya Bhandar

4212. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pay scales of the employees of Kendriya Bhandar except General Manager and Deputy General Manager have been revised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) does not arise.

#### Production of Coconut

4213. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the latest figures regarding production and productivity of coconut in the five leading coconut growing States;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to step up production and productivity of coconut in various States; and

(c) the allocation of funds made by the Coconut Development Board for the promotion of coconut cultivation during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The latest available figures of production and productivity of coconut in five leading coconut growing States are given below:—

State	1996-97	
	Production (Million nuts)	Yield (Nuts./ha)
1. Kerala	5759.0	5727
2. Tamil Nadu	3811.6	11621
3. Karnataka	1492.5	5204
4. Andhra Pradesh	685.9	7537
5. West Bengal	313.1	13211

(b) For increasing production and productivity of Coconut in various States, the Coconut Development Board is implementing following programmes:—

1. Production and distribution of quality planting material.
2. Area Expansion.