

(a) whether the Government propose to remove the distortions in inputs and farm produce pricing and land holding policies to boost investments in agriculture;

(b) if so, whether any representations have been received in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and further reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) There is generally no control on the prices of inputs. However, the policy of the Government is to provide basic inputs viz. fertiliser, irrigation and power at affordable prices through subsidies/concessions. Incentives are also provided for use of quality seeds and location specific high yielding/hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, improved farm implements, etc.

The objective of the Government's pricing policy for agricultural commodities is to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce for increasing production and productivity. The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) are fixed by the Government for 24 major agricultural commodities for Kharif and Rabi crops. The support to commodities not covered under MSPs is provided under Market Intervention Scheme.

No distortions have been reported or observed in the land holding policy of the Government of India and there has been no change in the policy decided in the Chief Minister's conference held in 1972. However, an outlay of Rs. 43.00 crores has been provided under the Land Reforms Schemes for 1999-2000, Budget providing financial assistance to States/UTs to strengthen the land revenue administration, induction of modern technology in the field of survey and settlement, preparation, maintenance, updating and storage of land records including computerisation and training of revenue, survey and settlement of staff.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Linking of Rivers

*115. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute a panel of expert engineers to formulate a scheme for interlinking all the rivers of the country for making proper use of water and providing safeguards against recurrent floods in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which such a panel is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) to (c) Government of India has set up a high powered Commission, namely, "National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan" on 13th September, 1996. This Commission is composed of high level experts and engineers in various fields of water resources development. The Commission, *inter alia*, is to suggest modalities for transfer of surplus water to water deficit basins by inter-linking of rivers for preparing an integrated water plan for development of water resources for drinking, irrigation, industrial, floods control and other uses.

Soil Erosion

*116. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI H.P. SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rivers causing excessive soil erosion in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total area of land affected as a result thereof, State-wise;

(c) the measures being taken by the Union Government to check soil erosion in the country; and

(d) the funds provided by the Union Government to each State Government during the last three years, till date and the funds earmarked for the Ninth Five Year Plan for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Soil erosion is a natural phenomena which occurs in almost all rivers of the country with varying intensities. Erosion problem is more predominant in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal in the Ganga basin as also in the State of Assam in Brahmaputra basin.

(b) Statistics of data on area affected by soil erosion are not maintained by the Central Government.

(c) Over the years State Governments have been undertaking various measures to prevent soil erosion as part of their flood management activity which is a State subject. Flood Management Works consisting of 906 town protection measures, 16,200 km. of embankments constructed up to the end of Eighth five year plan contribute to check soil erosion in problem reaches of various rivers.

For the chronically river erosion affected basins of the Ganga and Brahmaputra, Central Organisations like Ganga Flood Control Commission and Brahmaputra Board have prepared Master Plans for comprehensive flood management which include measures to check soil erosion as well. These have been sent to all basin States for formulating detailed schemes and their implementation.

(d) Funds for undertaking soil erosion works are included in the allocations for flood control sub-sector. State-wise allocation of funds for the year 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given in Statement-I. Agreed outlays for the Ninth plan are given in Statement-III. Central Government is also providing grants to the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for undertaking specific anti erosion works to protect Kosi and Gandak embankments as detailed below:

(in Rs. crores).

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Bihar	11.86	2.36	2.39
Uttar Pradesh	—	—	0.48

Statement-I

State-wise approved outlays in flood control sub sector for the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Approved outlay for 1995-96	Approved outlay for 1996-97	Approved outlay for 1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30.00	22.00	17.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.22	3.85	4.48
3.	Assam	22.97	19.92	19.92
4.	Bihar	35.15	36.35	40.00
5.	Goa	0.30	0.80	0.84
6.	Gujarat	1.60	1.60	5.00
7.	Haryana	10.00	11.00	12.10
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2.04	3.70	3.90

1	2	3	4	5
9	Jammu & Kashmir	13.71	14.62	15.90
10.	Karnataka	9.72	10.00	7.47
11.	Kerala	21.00	35.50	25.50
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1.00	1.00	1.00
13.	Maharashtra	0.55	1.27	6.37
14.	Manipur	5.01	6.96	7.10
15.	Meghalaya	1.60	4.43	2.00
16.	Mizoram	Nil	—	0.00
17.	Nagaland	0.20	0.19	0.20
18.	Orissa	8.80	10.00	5.00
19.	Punjab	31.29	23.90	70.00
20.	Rajasthan	22.41	11.35	7.82
21.	Sikkim	0.34	0.34	0.34
22.	Tamil Nadu	3.49	1.59	2.03
23.	Tripura	2.04	2.04	4.64
24.	Uttar Pradesh	10.73	16.70	18.15
25.	West Bengal	43.00	66.35	70.23

1	2	3	4	5
26.	A & N Islands	0.71	1.60	1.61
27.	D & N Haveli	Nil	0.00	0.00
28.	Chandigarh	Nil	0.00	0.00
29.	Delhi	14.15	24.00	11.00
30.	Daman & Diu	0.35	0.35	0.23
31.	Lakshadweep	1.85	1.86	2.12
32.	Pondicherry	3.50	3.50	3.00
Total		300.73	336.77	364.95
Central Sector		55.97	81.78	72.15
Grand Total		356.70	418.55	437.10

Statement-II

State-wise agreed outlay in flood control sub sector for the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002)

Sl. No.	States/U.Ts.	Flood Control (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	127.41
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	69.52
3.	Assam	120.24

1	2	3
4.	Bihar	400.00
5.	Goa	6.48
6.	Gujarat	10.00
7.	Haryana	60.41
8.	Himachal Pradesh	20.00

1	2	3
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	85.00
10.	Karnataka	50.00
11.	Kerala	88.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4.67
13.	Maharashtra	2.70
14.	Manipur	36.00
15.	Meghalaya	18.00
16.	Mizoram	0.00
17.	Nagaland	5.37
18.	Orissa	40.00
19.	Punjab	409.70
20.	Rajasthan	51.16
21.	Sikkim	30.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	0.00
23.	Tripura	28.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	80.00
25.	West Bengal	328.44
Total		2051.08

1	2	3
26.	A & N Islands	4.23
27.	D & N Havell	0.00
28.	Chandigarh	0.00
29.	Delhi	120.00
30.	Daman & Diu	2.19
31.	Lakshadweep	17.36
32.	Pondicherry	21.50
Total (U.Ts.)		165.28
Total (States+U.Ts.)		2216.36

[Translation]

Productivity of Livestock and Dairy

*117. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes initiated by the Government during the last three years to increase productivity of livestock and dairying;

(b) the details of achievements made in this regard during the said period, State-wise;

(c) the details of assistance provided by the Government in this regard during the said period, State-wise;

(d) the steps taken for utilizing the new technique developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research and other Research Institutions in livestock and dairying areas and for developing necessary infrastructural facilities to achieve this purpose; and