

(a) whether any new varieties of cotton seeds have been developed by the Government;

(b) if so, whether any norms have been set for distributing seeds among farmers; and

(c) the details of the facility being provided by the Government for protection of crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes Sir. As a result of intensive efforts through the All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project 30 varieties/hybrids have been developed in the past three years.

(b) The production and distribution of seeds is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Agriculture Department of the States, the State Seed Corporations are engaged in the task of multiplying and distributing certified/quality seeds to farmers. The efforts of the State Governments are supplemented by the Central Government and its agencies, the National Seeds Corporation Ltd. and the State Farms Corporation of India Ltd. Assistance is provided under the Intensive Cotton Development Programme for supply of certified seeds.

(c) For protection of crops, regular surveillance and monitoring through Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMC) located in various states is done. Apart from this, the following facilities have been provided:—

- Training to farmers on Integrated Pest Management (IPM),
- Grants in aid to States for setting up Bio-control Laboratories,
- Financial assistance for demonstration and extension in respect of IPM,
- Educating farmers to conserve naturally occurring parasites and predators, and
- Quality Control of Pesticides through Central Insecticide Laboratory.

Operation Flood Schemes

2187. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dairy projects set up so far in the country under operation flood scheme, State-wise;

(b) the details of the projects running in profits presently, State-wise;

(c) the number of Oil Projects undertaken so far under operation flood scheme, State-wise; and

(d) the efforts made for rehabilitation of the Dairy/Oil Projects running in losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) A total of 170 dairy projects (milksheds) have been established under the Operation Flood Scheme of which 91 projects are running in profit. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Oil projects were undertaken outside Operation Flood Programme.

(d) The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has taken up rehabilitation of a few dairy projects running on loss in anticipation of sanction of a scheme by the Government of India. A rehabilitation plan for oil projects is also on jointly by the NDDB and oil Unions/Federations.

Statement

State-wise details of Dairy Projects

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Number of dairy Projects (Milksheds)	Number of Dairy Projects/ Milksheds in profit
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	4
2.	Assam	1	-
3.	Bihar	8	3
4.	Gujarat	16	12
5.	Haryana	5	1
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2	-
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	-
8.	Karnataka	13	12
9.	Kerala	2	2
10.	Madhya Pradesh	7	2
11.	Maharashtra	20	7
12.	Nagaland	1	-
13.	Orissa	5	4

1	2	3	4
14.	Punjab	11	9
15.	Rajasthan	16	9
16.	Sikkim	1	-
17.	Tamil Nadu	13	6
18.	Tripura	1	-
19.	Uttar Pradesh	28	14
20.	West Bengal	6	4
21.	Goa	1	1
22.	Pondicherry	1	1
Total		170	91

Cultivation of Cash Crops

2188. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total area under cultivation for cash crops has increased from 1995 onwards in the country;

(b) whether Union Government have fixed any criteria for the cultivation of food crops and cash crops in proportion to its use in the domestic market;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken by the Government on the proposal of Government of Kerala to assist the State Government for implementing scheme for the development of cash crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The total area under major cash crops such as Cotton, Sugarcane, Jute/Mesta and Tobacco in the country during 1995-96 to 1997-98, is given below:—

Crop	(Area in lakh hectare)		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
COTTON	78.71	90.35	91.22
SUGARCANE	38.67	41.47	41.68
JUTE/MESTA	9.29	9.26	10.79
TOBACCO	3.82	3.95	4.32

(b) and (c) Area under Virginia tobacco is only regulated by the Tobacco Board in the Ministry of Commerce as per domestic and export requirements.

(d) Based upon the proposal from the State of Kerala, a provision of Rs. 40.381 lakh as Central Share has been made for the State under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System.

Veterinary Hospitals

2189. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for opening of veterinary hospitals and insemination centres in the country and the number of cattles prescribed in each for this purpose;

(b) the details of veterinary hospitals and insemination centres in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have provided any financial assistance for setting up veterinary hospitals and insemination centres during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(e) whether the Union Government propose to increase the number of veterinary hospitals and insemination centres in the country; and

(f) if so, the number of such hospitals and centres likely to be set up in each State and by when they are likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The Government have not fixed any criteria for opening of veterinary hospitals. However, the National Commission on Agriculture (1976) had recommended at least one veterinarian for every 5000 cattle units by the year 2000 AD. The general criteria followed for the establishment of insemination centre is that at least one centre should be available for every 1000 breedable cattle/buffaloes.

(b) The details of veterinary hospitals and insemination centres in the country, State-wise is given in the attached Statement-I.

(c) and (d) No financial assistance is provided for setting up of veterinary hospitals in the States. However, financial assistance is provided to the States for setting up of artificial insemination centres under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Extension of Frozen Semen Technology'. The assistance provided to the States in the last three years and the number of insemination centres established, State-wise, is given in the attached Statement II.

(e) and (f) There is no proposal to increase the number of veterinary hospitals. However, the number of insemination centres may be increased, on the basis of the proposals received from the State Governments.