

(b) if so, the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to modernise its food processing system by incorporating modern technology;

(c) whether any Committee has been appointed to consider the question of Modernisation of the food processing system; and

(d) if so, the details and the recommendations made by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Technology upgradation in any industry including that of food processing is an on-going process. The Ministry under its Plan Schemes provides financial assistance to various institutions viz. CFTRI, Mysore; Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur; Paddy Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur etc. for taking up Research and Development programmes in all areas of food processing.

The Ministry also operates another scheme under which financial assistance is provided in the form of loan and grant for setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing industries.

(c) Ministry has not appointed any Committee to consider the question of modernisation of food processing system.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Teesta Barrage

2234. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which Teesta Barrage Project is pending at present;

(b) the quantum of funds released by the Union Government and the amount incurred on the said project till date;

(c) the bottlenecks affecting the progress of this project, if any;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to complete the project expeditiously; and

(e) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Presently first sub-stage of Stage-I of Phase-I of Teesta Barrage Project is

under execution. The percentage completion of various components of the Project as on 1.1.98 are as under:—

Teesta Barrage	100%
Mahananda Barrage	100%
Dauk Nagar Barrage	100%
Teesta Mahananda Link Canal	100%
Mahananda Main Canal	100%
Dauk Nagar Main Canal	65%
Nagar Tongaon Main Canal	Yet to be started.
Teesta Jaldhaka Main Canal	55%
Distribution System	25%

(b) to (d) Bottlenecks affecting the progress of the Project are land acquisition problems, non-availability of forest land, shortage of funds, change in scope of the project etc. Planning Commission released a Special Central Assistance of Rs. 5 Crores in the year 1983-84, an advance Plan assistance of Rs. 10 Crores in 1986-87 and Rs. 10 Crores during 1987-88. Further an additional Central Assistance of Rs. 150 Crores was sanctioned by the Planning Commission during the VIII Five Year Plan. Central Loan Assistance of Rs. 5 Crores was released for the project during the year 1996-97 and Rs. 15 Crores during 1997-98 under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) of Ministry of Water Resources. An expenditure of about Rs. 672.66 Crores has been incurred on the project up to March, 1997.

(e) Irrigation is a State subject. Completion of the project will depend on the priority attached to it by the State Government.

#### Loan to Farmers

2235. SHRI R.S. GAVAI :  
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a concrete plan for providing loans to farmers at concessional rates and if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) if so, whether the Government have fixed the target for providing loans under the multiagent system during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(c) if so, the details of the achievements made by the Government under the said scheme during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on table of the Sabha.

#### Production of Wheat

2236. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have felt the need to draw a long-term plan to boost the production of wheat to meet the growing demands by 2000 A.D.; and

(b) if so, the various strategies proposed to be adopted by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To boost the production of wheat so as to meet the demand by 2000 A.D. the implementation of on-going centrally sponsored "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Wheat)" is proposed to be continued with some modifications during the Ninth Five Year Plan. Besides, the implementation of "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice)" and "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals)", which include the wheat development programmes would also continue. These schemes are to supplement the efforts of State Govt. in increasing the production and productivity of cereal crops. The strategy proposed to be adopted for increasing the production of wheat and other foodgrains includes increasing the coverage under high yielding varieties, stepping up the use of plant nutrients, improving irrigation facilities, propagating the use of water saving devices like sprinkler irrigation system, development of efficient water harvesting and conservation methods, etc.

#### World Bank Assistance

2237. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had taken a number of steps to improve agricultural production with the help of World Bank and other foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the extent to which it has increased the production of agricultural commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. At present, various World Bank Aided and Bilateral/Multilateral projects are under implementation.

(b) The Agricultural Production is influenced by a number of factors. The on-going World Bank Aided Projects and Bilateral/Multilateral Projects are also supplementing the, on-going efforts of the State Governments for increasing production. The extent of increase in the production of Agricultural Commodities because of the implementation of Externally Aided Projects cannot be assessed separately as all the measures intended for increasing productivity and production have the bearing on overall production.

#### Desilting of Reservoirs

2238. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :  
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have evolved any Action Plan to remove the silt accumulated in various dams and reservoirs in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to check the soil erosion in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which all dams and reservoirs of the country are likely to be desilted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. Soil erosion and silting of reservoirs are natural phenomenae and provisions are made in the reservoirs for accommodating silt. Generally, the reservoirs are planned for a life of 100 years. Soil conservation measures, afforestation and water management practices in the catchment of River Valley Projects are taken up to reduce the rate of siltation in the reservoirs to some extent.

#### Honey Bee

2239. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of structural and operation of National Honey Bee Keepers Association;

(b) the details of honey produced in the country during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) the details of its export to different countries, country-wise; and

(d) the facilities provided by the Government to Honey Bee Keepers?