

activities, workshops and information dissemination.

- \* to strengthen the capacities of local organisations in Andhra Pradesh to develop and transfer biotechnologies through research activities and conduct analysis in the field of technology assessment, and
- \* to promote discussions on biosafe measures and to contribute to discussion on issues of intellectual property where appropriate. The budget for this programme is 8 million Netherlands Guilders which is approximately Rs. 18.00 crores.

(c) The programme is for a period of five years starting from 1996 to 2000 AD.

[Translation]

#### Bargi Dam

5097. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the work on the ambitious right bank canal of Bargi irrigation project is proceeding at a slow pace;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the work on the left bank canal of the project is being undertaken with loans from NABARD;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government propose to secure loans from some International Financial Institution for completion of this project; and
- (f) if so, the efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. There has been delay in execution of Right Bank Canal under Bargi Dam Project due to low priority given by Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. NABARD has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 42.50 crores for a part of left Bank Canal system consisting of Khajuri Distributory, Kunwarpur Distributory and Hareri Branch Canal.

(e) Yes Sir.

(f) The project was posed for financial assistance to Overseas Economic Co-operation fund of Japan, but it did not find favour with donor agency.

[Translation]

#### Development of Hilly Areas

5098. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Planning Commission propose to constitute a committee to monitor the developmental work in hilly/tribal areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, Planning Commission, through the Plan discussions, annually assesses the progress of the various schemes in the States. In view of the above, there is no proposal to constitute a committee to monitor the developmental work in hilly/tribal areas.

[English]

#### Hybrid Varieties of Sugarcane

5099. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :  
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :  
SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the government have issued directions to conduct research work on the hybrid varieties of sugarcane;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the funds likely to be spent on the research work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The work on production of hybrid varieties of Sugarcane has been going since long in the country. The hybrid fluff (true seed) produced in the 'National Hybridisation Garden' located at Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore is supplied to different locations in the country for *in situ* selection of hybrid varieties of sugarcane. The *germplasm* collections

maintained at Sugarcane Breeding Institute Research Centre, Cannanore is being systematically exploited in the hybridisation programme. These hybrid varieties have helped in boosting the productivity of sugarcane from 33.7 t/ha in 1949-50 to 66.5 t/ha in 1996-97. More than 2500 hybrids of sugarcane have been selected for evaluation and commercial exploitation and this work is being carried at more than 20 centres under All India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane and two Research Institutes of ICAR.

(c) An amount of Rs. 345 lakhs under plan during the year 1998-99 will be spent to conduct research work on sugarcane under All India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane at 19 research centres, SBI Coimbatore and its regional centres.

#### C & AG's Report

5100. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :  
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether several irregularities in the implementation of centrally sponsored MPs Local Area Development Scheme has been pointed out by C.A.G. in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to remove bottlenecks in the implementation of the scheme and propose to issue fresh guidelines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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) and (b) Yes Sir, C & AG has pointed out certain irregularities in the implementation of MP Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) in various Districts. These relate to works executed by District Collectors without recommendation of MPs, works executed on the recommendation of MPs' representatives, execution of works not covered under the scheme.

(c) and (d) All the Chief Secretaries/Administrators of States and Union Territories have been requested to examine the matter. In addition, all the District Collectors have been instructed to take necessary action and effective followup. There is no proposal for issuing fresh guidelines in view of the C & AG Report.

#### Imbalance in Food Processing Industries

5101. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing imbalance in the development of food processing industries in different States;

(b) if so, the State-wise position at present and the reasons for growing imbalance; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to reduce the regional imbalance?

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

(b) Food Processing is done both in the organised and unorganised sectors. The data regarding the number of units or production State-wise are not available. According to the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for 1994-95 published by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO). Department of Statistics, there were 29,407 factories in the country as whole in the various sectors of food processing. Statewise number of factories is shown in the enclosed statement-I.

Food Processing Industries, specifically relating to the Fruits and Vegetables Sector are required to take licence from the Ministry of Food Processing Industries under the Fruit Products Order (FPO) promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act. There are 4932 Fruit and Vegetable Processing Units which have been licensed under FPO upto January, 1998. Their State-wise detail is in the enclosed Statement-II.

Growth of processed food industries like any other industry depends on a variety of factors such as availability of raw materials, infrastructural facilities, the viability of the project etc.

(c) For promotion of food processing industries in the country various policy measures have been provided by the Government. Besides, under the Plan Schemes of the Ministry, financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grant is provided to cooperatives. Non-Government Organisations, Public Sector Undertakings, Private Sector Industries, Research Institutions etc. for promotion of the processed food sector. These schemes are project oriented and not State specific. Details of measures taken by the Government in this direction are in the enclosed statement-III.

In addition, the Ministry has identified Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, North-Eastern States, Islands and Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) areas.