

with retrospective effect from June, 1999 from Rs. 578/Metric tonne to Rs. 750/MT subject to the limit of 20% of well head value.

Rejection of CTBT by US Senate

***78. SHRI SANATAN BISI:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the US senate has rejected the ratification of the CTBT;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what concrete steps Government are contemplating on CTBT issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) On October 13, 1999, the US Senate rejected the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) submitted by the US President for the advice and consent of the Senate. 48 senators voted in favour of the treaty while 51 voted against.

(c) India's position on the CTBT was articulated by the Prime Minister in the UN General Assembly in September 1998 and in Parliament in December, 1998. This was reiterated by the External Affairs Minister at the UN General Assembly in September 1999. That remains the Government's position. Discussions on a range of issues, including the CTBT, are in process with our key interlocutors. The Government remains ready to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion. Naturally, this requires the creation of a positive environment as we work towards creating the widest possible consensus domestically. We also expect that other countries shall adhere to this treaty without any conditions.

Cultivated Land Area

***79. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that cultivated land area has remained unchanged and the rate of food production has declined over the years;
- (b) if so, what are the exact figures in this regard; and
- (c) in the wake of increasing population how does Government propose to deal with this situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The cultivated land area in the country in 1979-80 was 154.6 million hectares and it increased to 156.03 million hectares in 1995-96. However, the compound growth rate of total foodgrains production during 1989-90 to 1998-99 was 1.8% compared to 3.54% during 1979-80 to 1989-90.

(c) In order to increase the production and productivity of various foodgrains the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development

[3 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

Programmes in Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems areas, Accelerated Maize Development Programme and the Pulses Development Project. Under these programmes/schemes incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements. Besides, field demonstration on farmers' holding including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Government is also providing price and market support to the farmers by announcing the minimum support prices for major foodgrains crops and making arrangements for the procurement through the nodal agencies. The subsidised supply of fertilisers encourages its consumption for maintaining growth of foodgrains production. Further, as per the National Agenda for governance, the Government has given fresh thrust to double the food production in next ten years adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

Pakistan's View on Lahore Declaration

***80. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:**

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of Pakistani Foreign Minister made by him in the National Assembly in Islamabad that the Lahore Declaration was as good as dead;

(b) whether Government continues extolling this declaration and swears by it to revive the Lahore spirit in Indo-Pak relations; if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) whether the Pakistani new regime has also made a similar statement regarding Lahore Declaration and other bilateral agreements?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (c) No statement of Mr. Sartaj Aziz in the National Assembly to the effect that the Lahore Declaration is dead has come to Government's notice. Following the military coup, Mr. Abdul Sattar, while addressing a press conference, said that the Lahore Declaration was one among many agreements that existed between India and Pakistan. At the same press conference, Mr. Abdul Sattar also said that Pakistan did not disown any agreements signed by it.

(d) Government's policy towards Pakistan is principled and consistent. We wish to build a relationship of peace, friendship and co-operation with Pakistan. It is for this purpose that the composite dialogue process was put in place last year. Through this dialogue India wished to build trust and confidence, establish a stable structure of co-operation and address all outstanding issues. Prime Minister reinforced this process through his historic visit to Lahore during which he conveyed the good will of the