

[23 December, 1999]

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rain water. As per preliminary reports, salinity was below injury level.

{b) and (c) No such serious problem has occurred. But the saline affected soils will be managed with amendments like paper mill sludge/press mud from Sugar mills and application of Gypsum. Farmers have been advised to adopt measures such as plantation of saline tolerant crops, planting of proper size seedlings in case of paddy and using polythene mulch in small basins for crops planted in basins.

#### **Arid-Zone Fruits Production in Gujarat**

2313. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Gujarat is an ideal State for the development of fruit production particularly of arid-zone fruits; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to increase fruit production in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is providing assistance to the State Governments including Gujarat for taking up programmes for production of fruits under the Central Sector Scheme on Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone Fruits. During the VIII Plan and the first two years of the IX Plan (1997-98 and 1998-99) an amount of Rs. 190.15 lakhs was released to the Government of Gujarat under the Scheme for taking up activities like establishment of nurseries, establishment of Tissue Culture Units, Area Expansion, Rejuvenation of senile orchards and training of farmers. An outlay of Rs. 115.61 lakhs have been earmarked for Gujarat during 1999-2003 under the scheme.

#### **Five Year Programme for Land Use**

2314. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Crop and Space Scientists have joined hand for a new Five Year Programme to improve India's agricultural land use;