

like maize, sorghum soyabean, pulses, cocounut, clove and spices;

(c) whether Government are planning a phase-out schedule for lifting import curbs on farm goods; and

(d) if so, what are the safeguard provisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) The Government of India is implementing a number of Central/ Centrally Sponsored Programmes to help the farmers in improving the quality and productivity of crops, so as to reduce cost

of production to enable them to face international competition. These include Integrated Cereal Development Programmes Coarse Cereals, Wheat and Rice, Intensive Cotton Development Programme, Special Jute Development Programme, Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based Cropping System, Accelerated Cereal Development Programme Maize, Oilseeds Production Programme, National Pulses Development Programme and Integrated Programme for Development of Spices and schemes implemented through the Coconut Development Board.

(c) and (d) India has recently presented to World Trade Organisation (WTO) a plan for the elimination of all residual Quantitative Restrictions on imports including those of agricultural products which are currently maintained for balance of Payments purposes. It is proposed to remove the Quantitative Restrictions on several agricultural items such as apple, oranges, cabbage, grapes etc. There are WTO consistent safeguards measures in the form of tariffs, bound rates, anti-dumping and countervailing measures to prevent damage to domestic production through surge in imports.

Implementation of Accelerated Maize Development Project in Bihar

328. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing Accelerated Maize Development Project (AMDP) in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the results achieved by the State under the project AMDP during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of funds released/allocated during last three years under Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP) to the Bihar are as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Years	Funds allocated (GOI's share)	Funds released (GOI's share)
1995-96	114.593	114.593
1996-97	73.10	36.55
1997-98	127.40	

(c) State Government has not utilised the funds released during last two years i.e. 1995-96 and 1996-97. However, the area, production and productivity of maize during last three years in the State are as under:—

Area in '000 hectares
Production in '000 tonnes
Productivity in kg/ha.

Years	Area	Production	Productivity
1994-95	888.90	1462.40	1645.00
1995-96	717.40	1247.60	1739.00
1996-97	726.00	1263.00	1739.67