

State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Goa	1.5	1.5	1.7
Karnataka	101.1	105.8	113.4
Kerala	79.5	90.5	91.2
Maharashtra	3.6	3.7	3.8
Meghalaya	9.4	10.2	11.1
Mizoram	0.1	0.1	0.1
Tamil Nadu	4.3	3.1	3.1
Tripura	2.5	2.5	2.5
West Bengal	9.5	9.9	9.8
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4.9	5.0	5.0
Pondicherry	0.2	0.2	0.2
TOTAL	271.1	289.7	299.8

Allocation of Funds to Fake Voluntary Organisations in Maharashtra

902. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in, Maharashtra, the District Soil Conservation Officer, Malegaon (Nasik) doled out Rs. 32.82 lakhs to 22 voluntary organisations which were neither registered nor had ever worked in the rural areas; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Govt, of Maharashtra has reported that the Divisional Soil Conservation Officer has allotted only Rs. 6.89 lakhs in 1996-97 and Rs. 12.87 lakhs in 1997-98 to 5 Voluntary organisations which are working in different villages. These Voluntary Organisations are implementing a State Scheme named, "Adarsha Gaon Scheme".. The expenditure incurred during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 b Rs. 6.89 lakhs and Rs. 12.87 lakhs respectively.

All These Voluntary organisations are duly registered. The Voluntary Organisations are selected by a State Level Adarsh Gaon Sankalp & Pralkalpa

Samittee formed for this purpose by the Government. The criteria fixed by the Committee are fulfilled by these Organisations.

Capital Information in Agriculture

903. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to hike the capital formation in agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) The details of the capital formation from 1992-93 to 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a), and (b) Recognising the importance of capital formation in agricultural development, the Government is taking a series of steps to raise capital formation in agriculture. These include, increased plan outlay in agriculture & allied sectors and enhancement in the investment for development of rural infrastructure. Raising productivity through various crop specific development programmes and ensuring remunerative prices would also help improve the capital formation in agriculture.

Some of the measures announced in the Union Budget for 1998-99 which

would result in higher capital formations are:

(i) About 58% of the total plan outlay on agriculture and allied activities.

(ii) Enhanced allocation for watershed development of rainfed areas from Rs. 517 crore to Rs. 677 crore.

(iii) 57% extra allocation to Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme.

(iv) 20% higher allocation amounting to Rs. 500 crore for Rural Infrastructure Development Fund of NABARD.

(v) Rs. 500 crore more for equity in NABARD.

(vi) Rs. 265 crore more for recapitalisation of regional rural banks.

(vii) Introduction of Kisan Credit Cards.

(viii) Removal of restrictions on agriculture exports as also on inter-State movement of agricultural commodities.

(c) The details of capital formation in agriculture from 1992-93 to 1997-98 are as under:—

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	At Current Prices	At 1980-81 Prices
1992-93	16614	5372
1993-94	16982	5031
1994-95	22487	6256
1995-96	26886	6961
1996-97	29198	6999

Public Investment in Agriculture

904. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enhance the public investment in agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details regarding the public investments during the last three Five Years plans and the current level of investment;

(d) whether there is any move by Government to improve the existing credit facilities for farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) In order

to encourage public investment in agriculture, a new Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) within the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has been established. In the Union Budget for 1998-99, an additional allocation of Rs. 500 crore has been made for RIDF. A new scheme of Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) was initiated during 1996-97 with a provision of Rs. 900 crore for providing assistance to States by way of loans for timely completion of selected large and multi-purpose irrigation projects. The 1998-99 Union Budget proposes 57% increased allocation for AIBP over the previous year. An enhanced allocation for watershed development in rainfed areas from Rs. 517 crore in 1997-98 to Rs. 677 crore in 1998-99 would also result in higher investment.

(c) The details of public sector investment during the last three Plans viz. 6th (1980—85), 7th (1985—90) and 8th (1992—97) are enclosed as a statement. (*See below*).

(d) and (e) The following steps have been taken to improve the existing credit facilities to farmers:

(i) the commercial banks have been asked to increase the flow of credit to agriculture by 25% during the year 1996-97 as compared to previous year.

(ii) with a view to strengthening the financial capability of NABARD, its capital base has been raised by