

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

Rs. 1000 crore during the past two years.

(iii) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are given recapitalisation support.

(iv) Banks have been advised to set up specialised agricultural branches in each State to exclusively deal with high-tech agricultural advances.

(v) Banks have been advised to extend cash credit facilities for meeting composite credit requirements of farmers having a good track record; and

(vi) with a view to improving the access of small and marginal farmers to institutional credit, NABARD has advised coop. banks to earmark funds in favour of small, marginal and economically weaker farmers.

Statement

Estimates of Gross Capital Formation in Agriculture

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Agriculture			
	Total		Public Sector	
	at current prices	at 1980-81 prices	at current prices	at 1980-81 prices
1980-81	4636	4636	1796	1796
1981-82	5107	4503	1937	1781
1982-83	5734	4590	2128	1742
1983-84	5620	4101	2251	1711
1984-85	6475	4549	2463	1674
1985-86	7016	4325	2621	1520
1986-87	7045	4011	2667	1425
1987-88	8389	4414	3057	1458
1988-89	9063	4346	3162	1362
1989-90	10025	4353	2989	1156
1990-91	11592	4594	3193	1154
1991-92	13390	4729	3230	1002
1992-93	16614	5372	3750	1061
1993-94	16982	5031	4469	1153
1994-95	22487	6256	5551	1316
1995-96	26886	6961	5978	1268
1996-97*	29198	6999	6009	1132

*quick estimates

Rabi Crop

905. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious condition of the rabi crops of 1997-98 season;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the position in respect of major crops; and

(c) the details of the remedial measures taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The rabi crops of 1997-98 season have been somewhat adversely affected on account of untimely heavy rains in November/December, 1997. The statements giving