

controlling locust in the cultivated areas in the Districts of Ajmer, Alwar, Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, Jaipur, Jalore, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Pali, Rajsamand, Sawai Madhopur, Sikar, Sirohi, Sri Ganganagar and Udaipur.

(b) Six high level Indo-Pakistan Bilateral Meetings have been held since 1975. The last meeting was held at Islamabad on 8-9 June, 1988. Keeping in view the seriousness of locust situation, frequency of border meetings was increased and during the period from June to November, 1993, ten border meetings of the Indo-Pakistan locust officers were held to discuss locust situation and control operations in both the countries.

The following international assistance has been received through FAO so far:—

(i) 15 High Frequency (HF) Radio Sets.

(ii) 20.2 MT of fenitrothion ULV.

(iii) 100 hand held battery operated MICRO-ULVA sprayers.

(iv) 8 ULVA-MAST, Vehicle mounted sprayers.

Revision of price of dried coconut

2080. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to revise the support price of dried coconut fixed in 1988; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The Government has already fixed the minimum support price of milling copra at Rs. 2150 per quintal and that of ball at Rs. 2350 per quintal for 1993 seasons.

Harmful effects of pesticide

2081. SHRI RAJENDRA PRASAD MODY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that farmers in Egypt, China, Malaysia, South Pacific, Islands, Costa Rica, Brazil, Holland, Sweden and Texas have slashed pesticide use and are harvesting greater yields than before;

(b) whether Government propose to advise the Indian farmers to cut pesticide use by 50 percent to save cost and increase production, as the use of pesticide is proving harmful; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The adoption of Integrated Pest Management approach has enabled the farmers to reduce the consumption of chemical pesticides in many countries.

(b) and (c) In order to minimise the use of chemical pesticides the Government is promoting Integrated Pest Management technology wherein it is advocated that chemical pesticides should be used as a last resort on the basis of economic threshold level of pests.

Policy on agricultural mechanisation

2082. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a Committee to draft a policy on agricultural mechanisation; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that nearly three percent of the American population i.e. about seven million people are engaged in agriculture as compared to about 500 million in India;