

Industry status to Agriculture

555. **SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:**
SHRI RAMDAS
AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to accord the status of industry to agriculture ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in order to subsidise the costs of agricultural inputs, a lot of expenses have been incurred from the public exchequer every year ;

(c) the details of expenses incurred five year plan period wise so far and their percentage of GNP of the respective period ;

(d) the details of the principal advantage that would accrue to the agriculturists as also to the public exchequer as a result of agriculture assuming the status of industry ; and

(e) what areas of agricultural activities/inputs have been consuming lions shares of subsidy, their details year-wise during the Seventh Plan and up-to-date during the Eighth Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The draft Agriculture policy Resolution placed in Parliament on 14-5-93 seeks to create a positive trade and investment climate for agriculture at par with industry.

(b) and (c) Relevant details of subsidies on inputs plan-wise and its share of GNP are as given below :

	Subsidies on inputs (Rs. crores)	Percentage of GNP
Sixth Plan (1980—85)	11271	1.24
Seventh Plan (1985—90)	29890	1.73
1990-91	8905	1.69
1991-92	14216	2.35

(d) The objective is to develop effective systems and bestow similar benefits on agriculture as exist in industry. This would help in creating favourable economic climate for increasing farmers own investments and efforts for development of agri-

culture, hereby increasing their income levels.

(e) A major part of subsidies on inputs relates to fertilisers. Relevant details year-wise are as under :

	(Rs. crores)	(Rs. crores)	(Rs. crores)
1985-86	1924	1983-89	5185
1986-87	1893	1987-90	5796
1987-88	2154	1991-92	