

State/UTs	1998-99	1999-2000
Karnataka	1671.3	1243.6
Kerala	8.1	6.3
Madhya Pradesh	5675.9	5591.5
Maharashtra	2573.0	2642.2
Manipur	1.0	1.2
Meghalaya	6.1	5.5
Mizoram	7.5	7.1
Nagaland	35.4	43.3
Orissa	160.6	155.1
Punjab	170.5	112.5
Rajasthan	3815.4	3578.5
Sikkim	5.1	8.0
Tamil Nadu	1644.0	1511.5
Tripura	5.5	5.5
Uttar Pradesh	1088.7	1301.4
West Bengal	382.5	383.7
A & N Island	—	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.1	0.1
Daman & Diu	—	—
Delhi	0.7	0.7
Pondichery	2.2	2.0
All India	24748.2	20871.6

Agricultural growth

628. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural growth assures food security, direct and indirect exports, lower level prices and generates

growing demand for industrial goods and services in the Indian economy;

(b) if so, whether Government are thinking of any specific measures, to increase agricultural growth by adopting composite measures like R&D inputs, high-yielding variety seeds, improved irrigation facilities, easy availability of mechanical aids for agricultural operations, low-interest rate finance, etc.; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the likely percentage of growth through application of such measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is making concerted effort to increase agricultural growth by implementing various Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes with the objective to extend irrigation facilities, enhance input availability including seeds, organic and inorganic fertilizers, farm equipment, chemical and bio pesticides, agricultural credit and also managerial and technical skills.

(c) Under perspective and Annual Plans, targets are fixed for Crop Production and accordingly action plans are formulated to achieve the targets. The National Agriculture Policy has laid 4% plus annual growth target for the next two decades.

Sufferings of cotton growers

629. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cotton growers of Punjab had been suffering crop failure for the past many years, which have rendered them penniless and even forced them to end their lives;

(b) whether it is also a fact that cotton growers in many cotton producing areas of Punjab have been struck by the dreaded American Boll Worm (Heliothis disease); and