

AN): (a) Yes, Sir. Major work in this regard is being done by the ICAR, under an all India Coordinated Research Project on pesticides residues since the sixth plan period. The main objectives of the project are to:—

(i) Organise, promote and Co-ordinate research on pesticide residues in agricultural product and other components of environment at all India level.

(ii) Monitor the pesticide residues in abiotic and biotic components of environment.

(iii) Devise and improve sampling extraction and analytical technology to facilitate quantification of pesticide residues and degradation products in soil, plants, grains and to provide facilities for quality assurance to ensure reliability of residue data.

(iv) Examine the effect of processing of food commodities for removal of pesticide residues.

(v) Maintain upto date information on pesticide residues and to provide guidelines to research and extension workers in the country.

(b) Results have shown that occurrence of DDT and BHC residue in few milk samples is more than permissible limits. In few cases, residue of total HCH and DDT in samples of edible oil and oilseeds was also found to be higher than value set by WHO, Geneva. Since waiting period, washing, cooking, dehydration, rubbing etc. helps in reducing the residue levels for field crops, wide publicity covering all these aspects is being given.

(c) Studies have not been conducted in respect of all pesticides registered for use in India as many of them are less persistent in the environment and are bio-degradable.

### Development of Remote Sensing Technology

2125. SHRI BAIKUNTHNATH SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what specific steps have been taken by Government to develop remote sensing Technology in the country;

(b) the achievement made in this regard so far;

(c) the steps taken to improve the remote sensing Technology more result oriented; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (d) The experimental remote sensing satellite, Bhaskara-1 (1979) and Bhaskara-2 (1981) and the earlier Rohini Satellites which carried experimental remote sensing payloads, paved the way to conceiving and building a series of operational Indian Remote Sensing Satellites. The successful launch of IRS-1 A the first in this series on March 17, 1988 and subsequent operationalisation of its systems for the reception, processing and dissemination of its data has been a major achievement of ISRO in remote sensing. The LISS-I and II cameras of IRS-1A have been providing excellent data for several remote sensing applications. IRS-1A will be followed by the subsequent launchings of IRS-1B and further IRS Continuation satellites. The Indian Remote Sensing Satellite System is tailored to the needs of Indian resources survey and management laying stress on agriculture water management, forestry, geology, land use planning, etc.

Flowing from the above the other achievements related to increased use of remote sensing technology for na-

tional purposes include the following:

—Establishment of the National Natural Resources Management Systems (NNRMS) with Department of Space (DOS) as the nodal agency;

—Result-oriented application projects have been taken up in collaboration with use departments. These projects are implemented in a mission mode with end-to-end goals such as Wasteland mapping, Ground water targetting, Integrated approach to combat drought, Mineral exploration, Urban sprawl/land use mapping, Agricultural applications mission etc.

—Establishment of a network of Regional Remote Sensing Centres (RRSCs) intended to service the user organisations in the country;

—Establishment of number of State Government Remote Sensing Application Centres/Units/Cells;

—Indigenisation of remote sensing interpretation equipments, development of organisational mechanism for interaction and exchange expertise among various user Departments of Government of India and State Governments;

—Strengthening the existing National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) and Space Applications Centre (SAC) under DOS, which are carrying on all remote sensing activities.

The activities undertaken under NNRMS represent the result-oriented application projects and programmes of the Department for overall national development.

#### Popularisation of Computer

2126. SHRI BAIKUNTHNATH SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking steps to popularise computers in the country;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to set up village-based computers;

(c) whether a pilot project is proposed to be set up for that purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir, Government is taking steps to popularise computers in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### Technology Mission on Bio-technology

2127. SHRI BAIKUNTHNATH SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased state:

(a) whether Government are taking steps to harness bio-technology in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up a Technology Mission on bio-technology; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The Government has set up an Integrated National Biotechnology Board in 1982 which was replaced by a new separate Department of Biotechnology in the Ministry of Science & Technology in 1986 to harness biotechnology in diffe-