

cost escalation. After examination of the Revised Cost Estimate (RCE), the Government of Gujarat has been repeatedly requested to submit a complete, comprehensive and final RCE.

**Relief to farmers under Debt Relief Scheme who had settled their dues**

1516. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of debt relief to the farmers announced by the Union Government;
- (b) for Kerala, debt relief were given during the months of January to March 2008, those who have taken loan from the Co-operative Banks and become over due and so, whether Government intended to give the benefits to the farmers who have already settled their dues during this period on One Time Settlement; and
- (c) if not, what are the measures being taken to give relief to such farmers also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Research and Development in Agriculture**

1517. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of Agricultural Research and Development in the country as compared to other development Countries;
- (b) the details of steps taken to accelerate the research and Development activities to increase productivity and quality of agricultural products in view of the growing population of the country;
- (c) whether Government has signed any agreement with other countries for mutual co-operation in agricultural research; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) India has positioned herself well in as far as agricultural research and development is concerned. The agricultural research and development in the country has received a boost in the XIth Plan with an increased Plan Outlay of Rs. 12023 crores as compared to Rs.5368 crores during Xth Plan. Though India is spending only 0.34 percent of agricultural GDF in agricultural R&D as compared to 0.72 percent in sub-Sahara Africa and 0.40 percent in China, Indian agriculture research and development has excelled in various spheres of biotechnology and molecular biology research leading to enhanced agriculture production and productivity as is evident from the fact that India has achieved self-sustenance as far as food production is concerned.