

availability, the following measures have been taken:

(i) Pulses have been put under the Open General Licence (OGL);

(ii) National level Agencies, viz., State Trading Corporation of India and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd., are importing pulses during the current year;

(iii) Enforcement of the provisions of the Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils (Storage Control) Order, 1977, under E.C. Act, 1955; and

(iv) A special programme is being implemented during the 7th Plan to increase the production of pulses.

Scientific Technologies to Tackle Drought Impact

487. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what specific scientific technologies have been evolved to minimise the impact of drought on agricultural production during the current year; and

(b) to what extent the Plant targets for various items of agricultural production for the current year are likely to be achieved with the adoption and promotion of these technologies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) To reduce the overall impact of the current drought on India's agricultural production, the following technologies have been recommended:

AGRICULTURE

1. Crop production practices for important rabi crops such as wheat,

rice, barley, pulses and oilseeds both under irrigated and rainfed situations.

2. Important crops and areas have been identified under assured growing conditions for meeting the future seed requirements and augmenting the seed supply.

3. Package of practices for promising fruit crops which can tolerate drought conditions have been evolved.

4. FODDER

(i) Punjab and Haryana States have around 10.5 m. tonnes of paddy straw. This straw is being utilised for livestock feeding after suitable treatment.

(ii) Considerable amount of sugarcane bagasse is available in some sugarcane growing areas in the country. This bagasse can be utilised as cattle feed after suitable treatment;

(iii) Intensive production of fodder crops in assured/limited water supply situations.

(b) To meet the short fall in food production due to drought in kharif season the targets of rabi production were fixed at 76.0 m. tonnes. To meet this target suitable crop production technologies have been suggested for various regions.

This programme has been implemented by different States and the present indications are that the rabi harvest will be better than that of the previous year.

Development of Towns in Madhya Pradesh under Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns

488. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of money that has been released to different States under the centrally sponsored scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns