

1	2	3	4
Extension Services	3.00	11.66	Farmers training
Seed Replacement	180.00	215.69	15.31 Lakh qtl. seed distributed
Horticulture Development	225.00	114.31	52128 Ha. area
Subsidiary income Activities	135.00	80.50	25247 Milch animal distributed to 15319 farmers
TOTAL	3,870.26 *	4309.61	

* In addition, allocation of Rs.3.00 crore as ex-gratia assistance under Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) was also made under the Rehabilitation Package to mitigate the distress of farmers in six identified districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

Investment in agriculture for research and development

†971. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that investment in agricultural research and development work in India is very low;

(b) whether Government is considering increasing investment in research and development activities in agricultural sector, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) The Plan expenditure of ICAR during the IX Plan was Rs. 2479 crore, Rs. 4658 crore in X Plan and is expected to be Rs. 8900 crores during the XI Plan.

Drug discovery and research

972. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to set-up a venture capital fund to facilitate investment in drug discovery and research;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the guidelines for investment from the fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) is in the process of examining a proposal to set up a Venture Fund for promoting Pharma drug discovery and innovation. Details including size etc. are being worked out with the help of National Institute of Public Finance and Policy.

Setting up of fourth unit at Namrup

973. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan to set up Fourth unit at Namrup under the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Ltd. has been finalized;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the unit will be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) For establishing fourth unit at Namrup under Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL), a detailed Techno-Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR) prepared by M/s Project Development India Ltd. (PDIL) has been submitted to the Department of Fertilizers for setting up a Brown Field Ammonia Urea Plant. The proposal is under examination of Department of Fertilizers.

(c) Does not arise.

Fertilizer subsidy

†974. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that despite having five fertilizer production plants in Gujarat itself, the fertilizers produced in other States is sold in Gujarat thereby putting extra burden of subsidy on Government, whereas burden of subsidy on Government, whereas burden of subsidy can be moderated if Government allows fertilizer producers of Gujarat to sell fertilizer in Gujarat itself;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.