

Bio-Villages Schemes

5241. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of bio-villages schemes operating in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government propose to extend the bio-village concept throughout the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI B ACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) There are five operational bio-village projects; out of these, four have been supported by the Department of Biotechnology. These are in Gujarat (Mocha village, Porbandar District); Madhya Pradesh (ten villages in five districts viz. Jabalpur, Raisen, Guna, Indore and Bhopal); Maharashtra (two villages namely Kurur and Varsoli of Raigad District) and Uttar Pradesh (Fifty villages covering ten districts of Western and Central Zones). The fifth bio-village project is being operated at Pondicherry by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai with support from the United Nations Development Programmes.

The projects undertaken at the bio-villages include application of bio-fertilisers and Bio-pesticides; vermicomposting; cultivation of mushroom, spirulina and high yielding sugarcane varieties; aquaculture including pisciculture and prawn rearing; and sericulture. Post-harvest technologies, development of entrepreneurship in vegetable dyes and herbal products have also been included. Many of components which are highly region/location-specific, are tailored to the needs of the local stakeholders, Beneficiaries/target groups have also been identified. There has been a positive response from the target population.

(b) to (d) As and when proposals are received, they are considered on the basis of merit, suitability to the region and their relevance to the target group.

Chart of progress of S and T

5242. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the chart of progress in Science and Technology since 1st April, 1999 till 20th February, 2003, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government are satisfied with what has been achieved in the field in J&K, particularly in Kashmir Valley for the said period, and
- (c) whether there is a plan to rectify the imbalance in this regard, in case the proposed chart suggest that?