

Outlook

44. Barring for 1996-97, when foodgrains output peaked at 199 million tonnes, the growth in foodgrains output during nineties has been just about 1.7 per cent which is much lower than the 3.5 per cent annual growth recorded in eighties. The yield rates appear to have plateaued in major wheat and rice growing areas. Hence attention would have to shift to those regions where productivity is much below the national average. Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa should be the target areas where higher investment in rural infrastructure by way of improved water conservation and delivery system, fertilizer use and credit availability should receive special focus.