

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to declare begging as a cognisable offence;

(d) if so, the time by which legislation is proposed to be brought forward; and

(e) the steps being taken to provide alternate livelihood to beggars?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). A bill was drafted in 1989 for prevention of begging.

(e) The Government is examining various aspects of the rehabilitation of beggars.

[English]

Waste Water Master Plan

50. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a waste water master plan from the Government of Orissa which is to be funded by the Australian Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b). The Government of Orissa had

submitted a proposal for preparing a pre-feasibility study of the Waste Water Master Plan for Cuttack to be funded through a grant from the Australian Government's Small Activities Scheme.

(c) The proposal was recommended by the Union Government to the Australian High Commission for consideration. An expert team from Australia has visited Cuttack for pre-feasibility study.

Amaranth

*51. DR. R MALLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Amaranth is widely used in the country as a green vegetable;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the varieties available with our Agricultural Research Units;

(c) whether these form part of the gene banks; and

(d) the details of research work conducted at the Agricultural Research Units during the last three years on Amaranth along with the amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Amaranth is consumed as green vegetable in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and parts of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh etc.

The varieties available with Agricultural research Unit are as follows:

Name of the varieties	Research Units
Co1, Co2, Co3, Co4	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

Name of the varieties	Research Units
Kiran and Pusa Kirti	Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.
Badi Cholai, Annapurna National	Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi.
Arun & Kannara local	Kerala Agricultural University, Vellanikkara.
GKVK-1	University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Research has been conducted on varietal improvement and standardisation of production technology of the crop at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Kerala Agricultural University, Vellanikkara, IARI New Delhi and NBPGR, New Delhi and UAS Bangalore. It is not possible to work out precisely the amount spent on Amaranth research because the financial allocations for research in vegetable crops are not made crop wise. However, it may be stated that at Kerala Agricultural University alone a sum of Rs. 30,000/- approximately has been spent on Amaranth research during the last three years.

[Translation]

Natural Calamities

*52. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had constituted a National Advisory Council to check the natural calamities;

(b) whether it has since submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement its recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) to (d). Sequel to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution (no. 44/236) declaring the decade of 1990s as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), a National Advisory Council (NAC) has been constituted to consider the initiatives to be taken for reduction of natural disasters in the country including review of the existing arrangements for preparedness against natural calamities, identification of programmes for natural disaster mitigation and creating public awareness regarding natural disasters.

(2) The NAC, which is a standing Committee, will meet periodically to review the improvements in the field of disaster preparedness and to chalk out long term strategies. The NAC during its meeting held on 9th October, 1991 was apprised of the objectives of the IDNDR for reducing the occurrence and minimising the impact of natural calamities, taking specific initiatives