

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

to deal with natural disasters and promoting greater public awareness.

(3) The NAC in its introductory meeting generally took note of the issues placed before it concerning the identification of basic parameters for the choice of programme, formulation of programme, promotion of public awareness and for identification of gaps in the knowledge regarding natural disasters. While NAC has not submitted any report, its deliberations will provide guidance in framing national policies and programmes and for drawing up a National Action plan for attaining the objectives and goals of the IDNDR.

[English]

### Deep Sea Fishermen

\*53. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of fishermen are killed every year while fishing in deep sea;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any social security/insurance package for such fishermen; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAN JAKHAR): (a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries which deals with the matters relating to deep sea fishing has reported that there is no report of loss of life of fishermen while fishing in deep sea.

(b) and (c). Department of Agriculture & Cooperation introduced a Scheme of Group Accident Insurance for active fishermen during the Sixth Five Year Plan period. Presently, the Scheme provides for an insurance coverage of Rs. 21,000 against death or

permanent disability and Rs. 10,500 for partial disability due to loss of one eye or one limb. The annual premium of Rs. 10.84 per head is shared equally between the Central Government and the State Government and hence fishermen get free insurance coverage. During 1991-92 about 8.5 lakh active fishermen were covered under the Scheme. Since the inception of the Scheme 2,268 claims have been settled and the amount paid is Rs. 320.18 lakhs up to September, 1992.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has informed that it does not operate any Scheme of social security for deep sea fishermen.

### Fire in Krishi Bhawan

\*54. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fire broke out in Krishi Bhawan on October 16, 1992;

(b) if so, the details of loss of life and property as a result thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the cause of fire;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the particulars of Government high-rise buildings which have been identified unsafe and served with show-cause notices by the Delhi Fire Service; and

(f) the steps being taken to instal the fire-safety measures in all these buildings?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.