

Brassica Crop

*475. DR. P.R. GANGWAR; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has developed a new strain of the oil yielding crop brassica;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for increasing brassica productivity in near future?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A number of strains have been developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Recently a new strain, BIO-902 has been developed through tissue culture technique at the Biotechnology Centre, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. The strain is in an advanced stage of yield testing under All India coordinated trails at different locations in the North-Western Zone comprising of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. In the last two years trials the average yield ranged between 2.0 to 2.2 tonnes per hectare. The oil content is also higher than that of the national best variety, Varuna (37.4% as compared to 36.2%).

(c) The following steps are proposed to be taken in the VIIIth Five Year Plan for increasing brassica productivity:-

1. Establishment of a National Research Center or Rapeseed-Mustard to support production systems research with the basic technologies and breeding material.
2. Development of hybrids using different CMS systems and testing of the exper-

mental hybrids under different agro-climatic zones of the country.

3. Development of location specific varieties for higher seed yield and oil content, possessing resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses through conventional and non-conventional approaches.
4. Development of cultivars with low erucic acid and low glucosinolate characteristics.
5. Introduction and development of varieties of cultivation in non-traditional areas and seasons.
6. Intensification of research to develop integrated disease and pest management practices and schedules suitable for different cropping situations.
7. Increased emphasis on on-farm testing and production of basic and breeder seed of improved varieties.

[Translation]

Dairy Units

*476. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of State Governments have submitted proposals to the Union Government for setting up of dairy units in their respective States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Dairy Develop-