

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of Wheat available for sale at present;

(c) the foreign firms that have approached the Government of India for the bulk purchase of Wheat;

(d) the stage at which the matter stands at present and the prices at which it is likely to be sold; and

(e) whether the Government have assessed the national requirement of foodgrains stock during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b). In April, 1995 the Government have fixed a ceiling of half a million tonnes of durum and 2.5 million tonnes of non-durum wheat for export during 1995-96.

(c) and (d). Various foreign firms are in touch with the Food Corporation of India for importing wheat from India. The FCI has not exported/sold for export any wheat so far.

(e) Yes, Sir. It is only after assessing the national requirement of foodgrains that the ceilings for export of wheat for 1995-96 have been fixed.

#### Financial Irregularities in IGNOU

\*133. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the teaching and non-teaching staff of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) have alleged regarding the financial irregularities being committed by the authorities;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to probe the financial irregularities of IGNOU through CBI/Intelligence Agencies; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the complaints relate to alleged irregularities in maintenance of stock registers, wasteful expenditure on (i) printing, jobs (ii) in purchase of papers and (iii) in works undertaken by the CPWD, and unauthorised diversion of funds.

(c) and (d). The matter is under consideration.

#### Agricultural Research and Development

\*134. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take steps to ensure greater Public Sector spending on Agricultural Research and Development so as to trigger rapid growth in productivity;

(b) whether the Government propose to allow private sector participation in Agricultural Research and Development; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c). Yes, Madam.

(i) Private sector has been actively involved in development of improved varieties of various crop plants.

(ii) Private sector is contributing substantially as far as seed industry is concerned.

(iii) Subsidy on micro irrigation has facilitated rapid expansion in drip and sprinkler manufacture and supply in the country.

(iv) Subsidy on small agricultural tractors has been allowed @ 30% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 30000 which promote sale of tractors by the private sector.

[Translation]

#### "Study on Air Pollution"

\*135. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the outcome of the study undertaken recently by the National Environmental Engineering Institute (N.E.E.T.) regarding Air Pollution in the country;

(b) the percentage of increase in Air Pollution registered in Delhi and other Metro cities during 1993 and 1994;

(c) whether any monitoring is being done in Delhi regarding the study being undertaken on medical examination of the residents in context with the purity of ambient air and the effect thereof on the human health; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d). The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is routinely carrying out ambient air quality monitoring of critical pollutants in Delhi. A study earlier undertaken in Delhi the CPCB on "Ambient Air Quality Monitoring in relation to Human Health" in collaboration with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, concluded that most of the health effect were due to multiple factors and any single factor did not reflect a direct relationship with community health.