

Improvement of Quality of Sugarcane

115. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the steps that have been taken to improve the quality of sugarcane in U.P.;

(b) whether any incentive has been given to the cane-growers; and

(c) if so, in what form?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) The following steps are taken to improve the quality of Sugarcane:—

(i) Continuous research is in progress to select and release new promising varieties with better sucrose content for general cultivation;

(ii) A few promising varieties are always kept on the approved list to be available as a stand by in case the varieties under cultivation show signs of deterioration;

(iii) Development and Extension Schemes are in operation to bring to the doors of cultivators results of research; and

(iv) The deterioration of suitable varieties under field conditions is being controlled through proper cultural practices and control of insect pests.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Under the Sugarcane Development Schemes, subsidies are given for the following items:—

(i) surface wells etc. under minor irrigation projects to the extent of 25 per cent;

(ii) phosphatic fertilizers to the extent of 25 per cent;

(iii) plant protection:

(a) 50% for pesticides, mechanical dusters, sprayers, etc.;

(b) 100% loan for power operated machines and plant protection equipment.

(iv) for completing the balance of the programme for establishing seed farms, assistance upto 50 nP per maund is allowed as under the 2nd Five Year Plan; and

(v) demonstrations of improved methods of cane cultivation are arranged in the cultivators' fields and credit facilities are provided to the cultivators for the purchase of fertilizers, etc.

Weather Chart

116. { **Shri P. K. Deo:**
Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether facsimile weather charts are sent from Delhi to foreign countries; and

(b) if so, to which countries?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Drainage in Delhi

117. { **Shri P. K. Deo:**
Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the steps that are being taken to provide better drainage facilities for flood water in Delhi;

(b) whether there is any proposal to cut the Ring Road by providing a culvert near Shakur Basti; and

(c) whether any steps are taken to check the overflow of water from the irrigation channels in the Punjab?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayyar): (a) The following steps have been and are being taken by the Delhi Municipal Corporation to provide better facilities for the drainage of the flood waters in Delhi:—

- (1) Providing new storm water drains;
- (2) Maintenance of old storm water drains by periodically cleaning and repairing them before and after the monsoon and
- (3) Improving the interception of rain water.

(b) The proposal to provide a culvert on the Ring Road near Shakur Basti is being implemented. The culvert is under construction.

(c) Vigilance is constantly kept to check any overflow from irrigation channels in Delhi which are being maintained by the Panjab Government. As soon as any breach occurs, necessary action is taken to get it plugged by the Panjab Irrigation Authorities. The Panjab Authorities have already been requested to stop excessive flow in their irrigation channels during the rainy season this year. For checking the flow from diversion channel of drain No. 8 and drain No. 6 entering the Alipur Block of Delhi, the Panjab Government have agreed to construct a regulator on drain No. 6 near the point where diversion channel of drain No. 8 leaves the course of drain No. 6. The Panjab Government have also agreed to construct a regulator in Delhi over the link channel connecting the tail end of drain No. 8 with the Najafgarh Jheel.

Plant Protection Measures

118. Shri A. K. Gopalan: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Krishna

District Cotton Growers Association to enhance the subsidy towards plant protection measures from Rs. 5 Rs. 10 per acre; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) No.

(b) The Government of India, have, however, on their own, agreed to the provision of subsidy upto 50 per cent of the cost of pesticides, dusters, sprayers, etc. under the Cotton Development Scheme in the States to be shared equally between the Central and the State Governments. Recently, it has been decided that the Government of India would provide their share of 25 per cent. subsidy, leaving it to the State Governments to provide any additional subsidy they liked.

Idukki Power Project

119. { **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**
Shri Imbichibava:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2467 on the 4th June, 1962 and state:

(a) whether the Central Water and Power Commission has completed preparation of the report on the Idukki Power Project; and

(b) whether any decision has been taken on Kuttiyadi Power Project?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) The project report on Kuttiyadi power project is still under examination of Central Water and Power Commission.