

Indian Agricultural Research Institute apart from Sonora 64; and

(b) the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) Apart from Sonora 64, six other wheat varieties of dwarf type have been released in the recent years, besides over 30 other varieties evolved by the Institute earlier.

(b) The dwarf varieties are Lerma Rojo, Chhoti Lerma, Sona 227, Sonalika, Saphed Lerma and Sherbati Sonora. Of these, the last four have amber to white grains, which are preferred by Indian farmers, traders and consumers. All these varieties are fertiliser responsive and have given yields as high as 50-90 mds/Acre. Some of these varieties are also highly resistant to diseases. One of these varieties viz., Sherbati Sonora, has been produced through use of atomic energy.

The other varieties evolved earlier are suitable for cultivation under conditions of average fertility. These varieties have been widely cultivated in the country and they continue to be popular in many parts, because of their disease resistance, grain quality and relatively high yields. Thus, NP 824 is widely grown in Gujarat, NP 835 and NP 852 in Bihar, NP 832 and NP 839 in Madhya Pradesh, NP 718 in Uttar Pradesh, and NP 798 in West Bengal. Likewise, in the North Indian hills, NP 846 and NP 809 continue to be popular, while in the Nilgiris NP 200 and NP 201 are preferred by the cultivators.

Supply of Tractors to Orissa

2300. Shri G. C. Naik:
Shri M. C. Majhi:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to supply three hundred tractors to Orissa State; and

(b) if so, when will these be supplied and on what conditions?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) Three hundred Zetor 2011 tractors out of the imports that are being made from Czechoslovakia have been offered to the Government of Orissa.

(b) The tractors will be imported and supplied very shortly. The terms and conditions of supply will be settled on receipt of a reply of the State Government to the offer made to them.

Prices of Vanaspati

2301. Shri George Fernandes:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri J. H. Patel:
Shri Rabi Ray:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the prices of vanaspati were revised during the last two years; and

(b) whether there is scope for further reduction of prices?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) The system of uniform price fixation of vanaspati on zonal basis was introduced only a year back—in June, 1966. During this period, the prices have been revised nine times.

(b) This would depend on the price trends of indigenous vegetable oils, particularly groundnut oil, and the availability of imported oils.