

Purchase of Rice from South America

3709. Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri Onkar Singh:

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

(a) whether the possibility of buying rice from South American countries has been explored; and

(b) if so, the quantity of rice likely to be imported from these countries in 1967-68 and the price thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantity, price and other terms of purchase are still under negotiation.

Merit Scheme for Scientists in I.C.A.R.

3710. Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri Onkar Singh:

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

(a) whether a merit scheme for scientists has been introduced in Indian Council of Agricultural Research; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-805/67].

Cultivation near River Banks

3711. Shri Abdul Gaal Dar: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to put the banks of the rivers under cultivation, under 'Grow More Food Scheme'; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the State Governments have been consulted in this matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) There is no Central Scheme as such for bringing river bank lands under cultivation. Lands which alluviate after the flood season are invariably cultivated for growing rabi and zaid-rabi crops. Also dry river basins are increasingly being utilised for cultivation of crops. Land within embankments when not under submergence is generally cultivated according to local rights and usage.

(b) The Government of India is negotiating with the Government of Punjab for establishment of a Central Seed Farm on 7091 acres in Sutlej Bed Area.

Scholarships for Research Work in I.C.A.R.

3712. Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shri K. Pradhani:
Shri Heerji Bhal:

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

(a) the number of students at present getting Government scholarships in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for research work; and

(b) how many of them belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) The total number of students getting Indian Council of Agricultural Research fellowships for research work (at M.Sc. & Ph.D level) is 324. Of these 196 are financed out of the Fourth Plan provisions and 128 out of I.C.A.R. Cese funds.