

sandy soils, less than half of which is commanded.

So far as the sand excavated at the time of the construction of the Rajasthan Canal is concerned, the Rajasthan Canal project authorities have been aware of this problem. Ordinarily, the excavated earth and sand are used in forming Canal banks or put in nearby depressions, excess sand/earth being put in spoil banks according to laid specifications and design. The Project authorities also take care to dispose of the excess quantities of excavated sand at a safe distance from the canals, where possible.

Only a summary of the recommendations of the Study Team appointed by the Indian National Science Academy has become available so far. According to the Academy authorities, the final report on the Study is still being prepared. In the summary it has been indicated that the problem of movement of blown sands requires further careful study on the ground and from the air. More detailed investigations on the origin of the sands and the ground creep of the unstable dunes in critical areas are necessary for the application of effective methods of dune stabilisation. As regards loose sand being piled up in the construction areas of the Rajasthan Canal Project, the team has highlighted the magnitude of the problem and stressed the necessity of taking urgent steps for stabilisation of such dunes. It has also expressed the hope that the engineers have drawn up plans to protect their own channels and distributaries, etc. As stated earlier, the Rajasthan project authorities have already become aware of this problem.

The problem of sand dune stabilisation whatever be the reason, in the Rajasthan Canal project area is of utmost importance. As mentioned earlier, the Union Department of Agriculture had sent a team of experts in June, 1970 to the project to identify the problems, etc. Another team of experts was sent to the project area in August, 1970, to suggest a plan of action. This team has suggested a programme of sand dune stabilisation and afforestation. These schemes are now being executed at an estimated cost of Rs. one crore during

the remaining years of the Fourth Five Year Plan.

Survey of Rayalaseema, (A.P.) For Digging of Exploratory Tubewells

2418. SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD. Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether any survey was conducted to dig exploratory tubewells in Rayalaseema (Andhra Pradesh);

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) if the answer to Part (a) be in the affirmative whether Government have made any effort to arrange for the digging of the tubewells;

(d) how many such wells are dug in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) what is the average cost of each of these wells ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHIND) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The area is mostly underlain by hard rock and in hard rock areas exploratory work has not been done so far. However, the Central Ground Water Board (formerly known as the Exploratory Tubewells Organisation) has now decided to do exploratory work throughout the country including hard rock areas.

(c) to (e). Does not arise.

Request from Punjab for Helicopters and Combined Harvestors from foreign Countries

2419. SHRI KIKAR SINGH :
SHRI YASHPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(b) whether the Government of Punjab has demanded from the Centre 20 Helicopters out of the I. D. A. Scheme for

Punjab for pest control;

(b) whether the Punjab Government also wanted more foreign exchange to be allocated for the import of 100 combined Harvestors this year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir,

(c) The Punjab Government wants to import 100 E-512 G. D. R. combine harvestors.

(d) Negotiations have been concluded with the International Development Association regarding Agricultural Aviation Project whereunder the agricultural aircraft including helicopters are to be imported. The credit agreement is to be signed shortly. After the agreement is signed, foreign exchange under this agreement would become available and then the request of the Government of Punjab for the import of helicopters would be taken up for consideration.

As regards the request of the Government of Punjab to import 100 E-512 G.D.R. combine harvestors, the matter is under consideration.

Demonstration Farm for Rice Cultivation Through High Yielding Varieties in Punjab

2420. **SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Punjab, after having witnessed a revolution in wheat production, is taking steps to revolutionise rice cultivation by introducing high yielding varieties, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the assistance of Japanese experts will be utilised at demonstration farm which is being set up at Bara, Patiala,

to show advanced techniques of rice cultivation to farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to set up more demonstration farms and if so, the number thereof;

(d) the acreage of land under rice production in Punjab; and

(e) the estimated increase in production of rice in Punjab by the new techniques ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION. (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The high-yielding varieties programme of paddy is already in operation in Punjab since Kharif, 1966. The State Government had planned to cover about one lakh hectares under high-yielding varieties of paddy during 1970-71. The information about actual achievement is not yet available.

(b) and (c). Information has been called for from the State Government and would be placed on the Table of the Sabha as soon as it is received.

(d) The total area under rice production in Punjab during 1969-70 was 3.84 lakh hectares.

(e) The estimated increase in production of rice in Punjab during 1969-70 over the production during 1963-69, was 4.6 lakh tonnes. This was partly due to increase in area and partly due to adoption of new technology.

Repayment of loans given by Cooperative Banks

2421. **SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether loans given by the Co-operative Banks were not being regularly repaid and the 35 per cent of repayment was overdue to primary Cooperative Societies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;