

suitable organisations have been built up at the central and State level. Adequate steps have also been taken to ensure timely supply of required pesticides. Research institutions like Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Agricultural Universities, State Government Research stations etc. have also been evolving pest and disease resistant varieties of various crops.

New Variety of Maize

1990. SHRI P. GANGADEB:

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA:

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

(a) whether a new variety of maize has been developed by Punjab Agricultural University;

(b) if so, whether the same has been released for cultivation; and

(c) whether its performance is satisfactory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Under the All-India Coordinated Maize Improvement Project, the Punjab Agricultural University has developed a new maize variety J 603.

(b) Yes, Sir. This new variety of maize has been released this year by the Punjab State Variety Release Committee for general cultivation in Punjab under the popular name Ageti 76. The Central Seed Sub-Committee is yet to consider this variety for release in other States.

(c) In the coordinated trials conducted at a large number of locations during 1973, 1974 and 1975, this variety gave consistently superior performance throughout the country under both irrigated and rainfed condi-

tions. Its yield potential was about 25 to 50 per cent higher than local varieties and almost equal to that of Vijay and Ganga-5.

Manuscripts lying unprotected in Public Libraries and Private Collections

1992. SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether quite a big number of manuscripts in classical languages have been lying unprotected in some public libraries and private collections;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry have any comprehensive scheme for preservation of those rare and valuable manuscripts and the scheme for copying and micro-filming; and

(c) if not, how he proposes to preserve the country's heritage?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): (a) to (c). Some of the public libraries and private collections possess a number of manuscripts in classical languages and the Government is aware of the need of preserving them. With this in view, financial assistance for their preservation is made available by the Government in the form of grants for the purchase of equipment, including equipment for copying and micro-filming and for construction of buildings to voluntary organisations working in the field of public libraries and to private museums. The Raja Ram-mohan Roy Library Foundation, and autonomous body, financed by the Govt of India gives assistance towards the binding and preservation of out-of-print and rare books and journals