

mes are proposed to be undertaken for the above purpose ; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) One National Research Centre on Biotechnology has been established in Indian Agricultural Research Institute for basic research in crop sciences. Similar work is in progress in the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack ; Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana ; Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod* ; University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay, etc., which will supplement the research efforts of the above centre.

The major areas of investigation under this programme include use of advanced technology for genetic manipulation for the development of new plant types for obtaining higher yield of food crops, for enhancing nitrogen fixation efficiency of plants, for rapid multiplication of plants through cell and tissue culture etc.

Development of Sandy Land

4710. **DR. PHULRENU GUHA :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to develop sandy land ; and

(b) if so, the States in which it is proposed to be developed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) and (b) Sandy land are mainly found in the desert areas and coastal areas. For the development of sandy lands in the desert areas, the Desert Development Programme has been started from 1977-78 with a view to containing desertification, restoring ecological balance and improving the productivity of land, water, livestock and human resources in these areas. This programme is in operation in 126 blocks in 21 districts of 5 States, viz. Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and

Jammu & Kashmir. The main components of the programme are afforestation (with special emphasis on shelter-belt plantations, grass land development and sand dune stabilisation), development of ground water, agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, etc.

Drinking Water during Seventh Plan in Delhi

4711. **SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the near future, natural resources of drinking water will fall short of the requirements of water for Delhi ;

(b) whether the present Yamuna water project as well as the Ganga Water Project which are the main supply projects of drinking water for Delhi have already proved to be insufficient ; and

(c) if so, what are the provisions in the Seventh Plan for supplying regular drinking water to citizens of Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing projects will provide water supply of 418 MGD as against requirement of 472 MGD in 1985.

(c) Proposals have been framed for augmentation of water supply in Delhi to 592 MGD by the end of Seventh Plan period at the rate of 70 GPCD (Gallons per capita per day) for urban population and at the rate of 30 GPCD for rural population. An outlay of Rs. 136.95 crores has been proposed for Delhi's water supply in the Seventh Five Year Plan proposals.

[Translation]

Soil Erosion in Hill Region of Uttar Pradesh

4712. **SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the river-valley catchment areas in hill regions in Uttar Pradesh likely to be taken up for their allround development and checking soil erosion during the Seventh Five Year Plan ;