

Achievements of Sheep Research Institute

1917. SHRI RAM BHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sheep Research Institute has been instrumental in sheep breeding ;

(b) main achievements of the Institute during the Sixth Plan ;

(c) major projects undertaken by the Institute with their location ;

(d) whether any new projects are likely to be initiated ; and

(e) whether Government are satisfied with the working of the Institute ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) A new fine wool strain 'Avivastra' from Rambouillet X Chokla has been evolved. Similarly two new synthetics with Nali synthetic and Chokla synthetic, have been evolved under All India Coordinated Research Project from a cross bred base involving Soviet Merino and to indigenous breeds. 'Avikalin' a superior carpet wool strain has been evolved from Rambouillet X Malpura cross bred base. Mutton synthetic has been evolved through crossing of Dorset and Suffolk with Malpura and Sonadi which can attain 30 kg. body weight at six months of age. Further, adoption of Karakul sheep to the local environment in Bikaner has been successfully achieved.

(c) In the areas of sheep breeding the following projects were taken up :

(i) Improving sheep for fine wool through cross breeding Rambouillet and Soviet Merino with Nali and Chokla at Avikanagar ;

(ii) Studies on improvement of 'Avivastra' through selection at Avikanagar.

(iii) Improving sheep for better carpet wool through cross breeding Rambouillet with Malpura at Avikanagar ;

(iv) Improving sheep mutton production through cross breeding Malpura and Sonadi with Suffolk and Dorset at Avikanagar ;

(v) Studies on pure bred and cross bred performance of Karakul sheep at Bikaner.

(vi) Improving 'Gaddi' Sheep for fine wool production and quality through cross breeding with Rambouillet/Soviet Merino at Garsa ;

(vii) Evolving dual purpose sheep through the cross-breeding of Coimbatore with Corridale at Mannavanur ;

(viii) Evolving fine wool sheep through the cross-breeding of Coimbatore with Rambouillet at Mannavanur.

(d) Major thrust will be on improving of carpet wool and pelt production. Efforts will also be made to introduce fur animal species like mink and nutria. Similarly, superior strain of wool rabbit viz., British and German Angoras will also be introduced. Two additional stations of the Institute one in southern and another in eastern plains will be established.

(e) The work of the Institute has been evaluated by the Quinquennial Review Team and has been found to be satisfactory.

[Translation]

Support Price of Food Crops

1918. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has been taken to declare support prices of food crops at the time of sowing ;

(b) if so, whether it will encourage farmers to produce more foodgrains ;

(c) if so, the reasons for not following this practice so far ; and

(d) whether support prices would be announced at the time of sowing of crops ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) (a) to (d). Government's objective is to announce support prices of food crops as early as possible at the beginning of the crop season. The support prices are intended to assure the farmers that in the event of a fall in prices, their interest will be duly protected. The impact on production will vary from crop to crop depending on weather conditions and relative parity of commodity prices. Over the years, the practice has been for the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices to undertake a detailed exercise regarding the price policy and consult various interests before formulating their recommendations. On receipt of these recommendations, Government consult the State Governments and concerned Ministries before formal decisions on the level of support prices are taken. Every effort is being made to speed up this process.

Allotment of Plots to Jhuggi Dwellers in Delhi

1919. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated number of jhuggis in various parts of Delhi and the total population thereof ;

(b) whether there is a proposal to shift these jhuggi dwellers to camps ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ;

(d) whether previously jhuggi dwellers were given plots of land measuring 25 sq. yards each ;

(e) whether the scheme of giving 25 sq. yards of plots of land to Jhuggi dwellers has since been discontinued ; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the reasons for not offering the plots of land to the Jhuggi dwellers ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : (a) According to a survey carried out by D.D.A. during 1983-84, there were 1,13,396 jhuggis in Delhi with a total population of about 5.6 lakh persons.

(b) & (c), The D.D.A. has decided to shift jhuggi dwellers to transit camps which are being constructed by it.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) It was considered that such a scheme could not be continued indefinitely and that the Jhuggi dwellers for the period after March, 1977 could be resettled under the Sites and Services programme.

Agronomic Researches for increasing Food Production

1920. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether new agronomic practices emerged from researches conducted in different States have contributed towards enhancing of food production ; and

(b) if so, details of such innovations made crop-wise and year-wise during the last three years ?