

Failure of CRRI to develop good rice Variety

8023. SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack which has been functioning since 1946, has failed to develop any High Yielding Variety of rice to suit the conditions, especially in the Eastern States;

(b) if so, whether a high powered committee will be set up to review its work; and

(c) whether high yielding Taichung Native-1, developed in 1965 at Central Rice Research Institute out of imported varieties was not released due to its susceptibility to bacterial blight and instead IR-8 from International Rice Research Institute, Manila was introduced which has raised rice production in the North Western States of the country, and if so, the reasons thereof ;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) No, Sir. Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, functioning since 1946, has done commendable work in carrying out basic/applied/adaptive research in all disciplines of rice culture; as a national centre for conservation of rice germ-plasm; constraint analysis for improved production; transfer of technology and training research/extension workers. The Institute has to its credit evolution of some outstanding varieties like 'SATTARI', earliest maturing variety of 70 days duration in the world, Neela, Rudra Shanker, Kalinga-III, suitable for rainfed upland areas; Jagannath for lowlaying waterlogged areas; CR 1018 for late planting and appropriate technology like use of urea supergranules, bio-fertilizers such as Azolla/blue green algae, for increasing fertilizer use efficiency.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Taichung native-I, as the name implies, was not developed at Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack. It was introduced

from Taiwan in 64-65 for improving local rice cultures by incorporation of dwarfing genes of Taichung native-I, through hybridization. IR-8, a dwarf variety developed by IRRI was introduced in India in 1966, and was released in several States for its wider adoptability, higher yield and better pest tolerance.

Offer of building coastal highway by Arab Emirates in Bombay

8024. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether United Arab Emirates has offered to build the coastal highway from Nariman point to Bandra in Bombay;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of this offer; and

(c) whether decision has been taken on this proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Soil conservation in upper catchment areas of U.P.

8025. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government have sponsored any scheme for taking effective soil conservation measures in the form of afforestation in the Upper catchment areas of various big and small rivers falling in hilly region of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent the physical targets of Sixth Plan have been achieved in these areas;

(d) the reasons for shortfall, if any; and

(e) the physical targets fixed for Seventh Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The following Centrally sponsored schemes were operated in the upper catchment areas falling in hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh during the Sixth Plan and the same are being continued during the Seventh Plan.

- (i) Soil conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects covering Ramganga catchment.
- (ii) Integrated Watershed Management in the catchments of Flood Prone Rivers covering Upper Ganga and Upper Yamuna.
- (iii) Soil, Water and Tree Conservation in the Himalayan region of Uttar Pradesh.
- (iv) Social Forestry Including Rural Fuel Wood Plantations in the Districts of Kumaon and Garhwal regions.

Under the above schemes, afforestation including soil conservation was taken up over an area of about 54300 hectares against the target of about 55200 hectares, almost fulfilling the physical targets for the Sixth Plan. In addition to afforestation, other types of land are also treated with soil conservation measures under the first three schemes mentioned above.

(e) The allocations of funds for the above mentioned Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being made on year to year basis. Therefore, the Seventh Plan physical targets are yet to be finalised.

[Translation]

Metals and minerals found in Pithoragarh, U.P.

8026. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether many metals and minerals including copper have been found in Pithoragarh district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the names thereof;

(c) the places where these metals and minerals have been notified; and

(d) the steps to be taken to exploit this mineral wealth ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Details of the metals and minerals found and location thereof in Pithoragarh district of U.P. as follows :

<i>Name of Mineral</i>	<i>Location</i>
1. Copper lead-zinc	Askot
2. Limestone (Cement grade)	Gangolihat
3. Magnesite	Dewalthal, Thal, Chandag, Tarigaon and Charandeo.
4. Soapstone	Kanalichhina, Thal, Dewalthal, Chandag and Berinag etc.

(d) (i) The Askot deposit is presently under detailed exploration and proposal for exploitation if any, would be considered by the State Government only after the exploration is completed.

(ii) The Chaunala limestone deposit is being considered for two mini cement plants in the private sector.

(iii) The Dowal Thal deposit is being developed by M/s. Bharat Refractories Ltd.

Bharat Refractories in Pithoragarh

8027. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a refractory under the name of 'Bharat Refractories' in Pithoragarh, Uttar Pradesh;