

1	2
Manipur	5213
Meghalaya	7863
Mizoram	7000
Nagaland	5255
Sikkim	5152
Tripura	14769
All-India	12610

(b) Yield rates in all the States of North Eastern Region are significantly lower than the all-India average, except in Tripura, which has a higher yield rate.

(c) Non-availability of foundation seeds is one of the reasons for the low yield rate of potato.

(d) The Central Potato Research Institute, Simla, is producing Breeder seeds which are supplied to the State Departments of Agriculture/Horticulture National Seeds Corporation, State Farms Corporation of India etc., for further multiplication into Foundation Seed I, Foundation Seed II and Certified Seed, to meet the requirements of the farmers in different States and Union Territories, including the North-Eastern region.

Paddy seed-er developed by IRRI

5676. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a low cost paddy seed-er ideally suited for small and marginal farmers has been developed by the agricultural engineers at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Manila (Philippines);

(b) if so, the salient features of the seed-er;

(c) whether its utility has been tested under Indian conditions; and

(d) if not, whether Union Government propose to test its utility ?

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

(b) Two manually pulled models capable of seed-ing pre-germinated paddy seeds in 8 and 12 rows have been developed. These have gravity seed metering systems to deliver 60, 80 or 100 Kg. seed per hectare. These can cover an area of one hectare in about 8 hours and 5 hours, for 8-row and 12-row models respectively. However, these seeders need level puddled field with proper drainage. These are operated two days after puddling, (after draining out standing water), depositing the seed on the soil surface in rows thus allowing use of mechanical devices for weeding, plant protection and harvesting. The approximate cost in the Philippines is about 800 and 1000 pesos (approximately equal to Rs. 500 and Rs. 625) for 8-row and 12-row models respectively.

(c) No, Sir. The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) has in the past developed paddy seeders which were tried in India and found to be of limited utility. Now, IRRI has recently developed the models mentioned in part (a) and (b) above.

(d) Yes, Sir. Steps have been taken to obtain detailed drawings and, if possible, a prototype each to test its utility in Indian conditions.

Primary Agricultural Credit Societies

5678. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :
SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government for universal acceptability of the concept of cooperation and compulsory membership of the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies for the people residing in the area of their operation; and