

(a) whether National Agriculture Research Project is one of the biggest projects for agriculture; and

(b) if so, the achievements made by it in respect of rural development so far?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIDEVI LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project launched in 1979 has decentralised the agricultural research system in Indian States from the University Campuses to 120 agro-climatic zones in the rural areas with emphasis on location-specific, need-based, production-oriented research for developing integrated agricultural technologies for the farmers. State Agricultural Universities have through this project developed scientific manpower, laboratory and farm buildings, equipments, books and journals in rural areas.

The project has established a closer linkage between research and extension on zonal levels for prompt dispersal of new findings. Closer linkage of Research Station Scientists with developmental agencies and farmers working in the zone helps in developing relevant farm technology in the rural areas.

[*Translation*]

Schemes for Development of Agriculture in Bihar

4652. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new schemes have been formulated by Union Government for the development of agriculture in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIDEVI LAL): (a) and (b). Some of the schemes taken up recently for development of agriculture in the country including Bihar are Special Foodgrains Production Programme (SFPP), National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP), National Oilseeds Development Project (NODP), Oilseeds Production Thrust Project (OPTP), etc.

[*English*]

Denotifying of old and Obsolete Varieties of Seeds

4653. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to denotify old and obsolete varieties of seeds as per recommendations of the Technical group set up by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the objectives behind these recommendations;

(c) the details of seed varieties of various crops which are notified presently; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take for identifying the obsolete and disease prone varieties of seeds?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIDEVI LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main objectives are as follow:-

(i) To keep the list of notified varieties upto date by removing the old and obsolete varieties from the list of Notified varieties.

(ii) To denotify the varieties which have broken down for any rea-