

Seed Research Projects

2900. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Seed Research Projects functioning in the country;

(b) the States and Union Territories where these Seed Research Projects have been set up;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a Seed Research Project in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Sir, Seed Research is being conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, through two projects, namely, National Seed Project and Promotion of Research and Development for Hybrids in Selected Crops.

(b) Seed Research Centres have been set up in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) A centre for Seed Research is already existing in Orissa State.

(d) Does not arise.

Ragi Production

2901. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of Ragi in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the production has decreased;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the yield of Ragi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The total production of Ragi in the country during the last three years was as follows:-

(In lakh tonnes)

1989-90	27.66
1990-91	23.40
1991-92	26.76

(b) and (c). The production of Ragi in the country has declined mainly due to decrease in area coverage under the crop.

(d) A centrally sponsored scheme - Special Foodgrain Production Programme (SFPP) on Maize & Millets is under implementation in seven ragi growing States viz., Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu & Uttar Pradesh for increased the production and productivity of Ragi. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided for various critical inputs like distribution of certified seeds, herbicides, plant protection chemicals/equipments, improved farm implements, conducting of field demonstrations, training to farmers etc.

National Agricultural Extension Project

2902. DR. SHRIMATI K.S. SOUNDARAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance provided to the Government of Tamil Nadu by the World Bank under National Agricultural Extension Project; and

(b) the progress made under this project during the last two years in Tamil Nadu?