

Performance of Indian Immunologicals

4419. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of Indian Immunologicals during the last three years indicating the profits before and after tax; and

(b) the sales turn-over, the production and actual quantities sold and stocks in hand during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House as and when received.

Unutilised Funds of Special Nutrition Fund

4420. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether a Special Nutrition Fund was set up under Operation Flood I, in 1970;

(b) whether assistance provided under the fund was spent for the benefit of weaker sections of the society; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Rs. 2 crores of the fund are lying in banks unutilised and if so, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Fund for the Special Nutrition programme was available from 1971-72

onwards.

(b) The assistance under Special Nutrition Programme was intended for the Weaker Section. The programme was implemented in selected integrated child development services (ICDS) projects in cooperation with Department of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development. Under the Special Nutrition Programme, till 1980 some 12 crores beneficiaries have been benefitted.

(c) The unspent balance of funds available as on 31.3.1987 was Rs. 236.31. Special Nutrition Programme is in State sector and each State/ UT implements it separately. As on 31st July, 1987, the Department of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development has recommended funding of 14 plants and allied requirements in six States amounting to Rs. 178.05 lakhs.

Interest free advances by I.D.C. to Milk Cooperatives

4421. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Dairy Corporation have given interest free advances to various milk cooperatives and federations as working capital and if so, the sums advanced and details of beneficiaries during last one year;

(b) whether all cooperatives who sought such a facility from the IDC were given such advances and if not, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the guidelines, if any, for the advancement of interest-free advances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND

COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Financial Crisis in Kerala Agricultural University

4422. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Kerala Agricultural University is reeling under financial crisis; and

(b) if so, then steps taken by Union Government/ICAR to overcome it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b). The Government/Indian Council of Agricultural Research are not aware of any acute financial crisis in the Kerala Agricultural University. The Kerala Agricultural University is an autonomous institution established under an Act passed by the Kerala State Legislatures. The responsibility of providing adequate funds to the university rests with the Kerala State Government. However, the Indian Council of Agricultural University during VII Plan, as development assistance under its scheme "Establishment and Development of Agricultural Universities". An amount of Rs. 99.00 lakhs has been released so far.

Decrease in Area under Paddy cultivation in Kerala

4423. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the area under the paddy cultivation in Kerala is fast depleting gradually;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to stop conversion of paddy fields into other crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b). The long term trend in area under paddy in Kerala has been showing a negative growth rate. This could be principally attributed to a possible shift in area from paddy cultivation to other crops.

(c) For increasing the area and production of paddy, a Central Sector Rice Minikit Programme is under implementation in Kerala. The objective of the programme is to increase the coverage under location specific high yielding varieties of paddy and propagate the adoption of improved production technology. Rice minikits of high yielding varieties are distributed amongst the farmers with a view to popularise these varieties. State level training programmes are also organised for training Extension Workers in improved paddy production technology, who in turn, organise trainings for field functionaries at district and block levels and for farmers at village levels. The achievements under the scheme during the last four years are as under: