

exploration and providing of new agricultural land during the Sixth Plan, area-wise; and

(b) the targetted period during the Seventh Plan by which the newly explored land will be fully ready for utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b). The land utilisation statistics, including net cropped area, are collected on the basis of information available from the field. On this basis, from the available information for the period 1979-80 to 1983-84, there has been an increase of 823 ha. in the net cropped area in the State of Madhya Pradesh, occupying 4th position among all the States in the country.

Diversification of Cropping Pattern in Maharashtra

3415. SHRI S. G. GHOLAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union government have formulated a scheme for diversification of cropping pattern in Konkan Region of Maharashtra with foreign aid;

(b) if so, the cost of the scheme and the main changes to be made in the crop pattern; and

(c) whether plantation of oil-palm in Konkan Region is proposed to be introduced under the scheme and if so, the sites selected and the details thereof?

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.

Use of Bio-organic Fertilizers and Bio-Fertilizers

3416. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to encourage use of Bio-organic fertilizers and Bio-fertilizers; and

(b) whether genetic bio-fertilizers are already in use in USA/USSR and if so, the reasons for poor progress in this direction?

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

(b) The Bio-fertilisers are soil and crop specific biological sources of nitrogen fixation and do not have universal application. As in USA and USSR, India also has made progress in the development of efficient strains of Rhizobium and Blue Green Algae cultures. To promote use among farmers, the Government has sanctioned a National Project on the Development and Use of Bio-fertilizers in the country.

Delay in Finalisation of Master Plan for Delhi

3417. SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an abnormal delay in finalising the Second Master Plan for Delhi;

(b) whether the delay are aware that this has resulted in a situation which will lead to haphazard growth of the city; and