

Tube-Wells

825. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) whether the programme for construction of tube-wells under medium irrigation Scheme in the State of Punjab during the Second Five Year Plan has been finalised; and

(b) if so, the details of the programme ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : (a) There is a provision for 466 tubewells in the Punjab during the 2nd Plan. The programme has not, however, been finalised pending the results of Exploratory borings.

(b) Does not arise.

Atomic Energy for Health

826. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether any progress has been made in the research on the use of atomic energy for health ?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur) : Research on the applications of atomic energy to medical and health problems is a continuous process. With the application of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, radio isotopes have become available both for medical research and treatment.

The main work so far has been in the use of radio isotopes for following the metabolism of various substances in the human body. Some of the fields of work for the above purpose are given below :—

- (a) Use of radioactive carbon and phosphorus for fundamental studies on cancer cells and nucleic acid metabolism.
- (b) Use of radioactive Carbon, Sulphur, phosphorus and Radon for studying the biological effects of radiation.
- (c) Use of radioactive sulphur, for synthesis of D.D.S. a drug used in the treatment of Leprosy and studying its metabolism in the body.
- (d) Use of Radioactive iodine for studying the functions of the thyroid gland.
- (e) Use of Zinc in studies on cirrhosis of liver.

In the field of treatment, radioactive iodine, radioactive phosphorus and radio-gold have been used for treating cancers, thyroid diseases, blood diseases and leukemia.

In India isotopic research is in progress in the Cancer Research Centre, Bombay and the Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital and University College of Technology, Calcutta, but not much work is being done because radioactive isotopes are not readily available from the country producing these and even if they were available their cost is prohibitive. With the establishment of an atomic energy reactor in our country, some of the isotopes may become freely available and further work in this field can then progress rapidly.

Seed Farms in Punjab

827. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) the number of seed farms so far opened and proposed to be opened in the State of Punjab during the year 1956-57 ;

(b) their places of location; and

(c) the grants made to the State of Punjab for this purpose ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : (a) Nineteen seed farms of 25 acres each are proposed to be opened in the reorganised Punjab State but so far no farm has been opened.

(b) Suitable lands in compact blocks at Gurgaon, Hissar, Sonapat, Karnal, Jagadhri, Samrala, Nawanshaher, Moga, Taran Taran, Bataia, Hoshiarpur, Narpur, Bhatinda District, Naagarh and Kandaghat are being selected.

(c) Rs. 3,20,625/-.

National Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme

828. Shri S. C. Samanta : Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state :

(a) how many centres have been opened in West Bengal according to National Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme in rural areas; and

(b) how much sum has already been spent up-to-date in the matter.

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of Lok Sabha in due course.

Flood Warnings

829. Shri N. B. Chowdhury : Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state in how many districts of West Bengal and to what extent it was possible for the Government to issue