

**New Gram Variety for Increased Yield**

924. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that this year's gram crop has very much shrunk thus leading to rise in prices of gram;

(b) the approximate quantity of gram produced during the year and whether Government have built up any buffer stock of grams also; if so, what; and

(c) what steps have been taken to evolve a new gram variety to ensure more yield?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) and (b). Final estimates of area and production of gram have not so far been received from all the States for the year 1979-80. According to present assessment there is likely to be some decline in the production of gram this year as compared to last year. Index of wholesale prices of gram which was around 240.2 in the 1st week of January, 1980 and 234.1 in the 1st week of April, 1980 has risen to 278.3 in the last week of May, 1980.

The Government is not maintaining any buffer stock of gram.

(c) The research in respect of gram is conducted under All India Coordinated Pulse Improvement Project. As a result of the research efforts two varieties, Pant G 114 and B.G. 209 of gram were identified in 1979. These varieties have shown 10-15 per cent increase in yield.

**News Item Entitled "Palace Antiques Fetch Rs. 8 Crores"**

925. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item

appearing in the *Times of India* dated the 29th May, 1980 (Delhi Edition) captioned "Palace antiques fetch Rs. 8 crores";

(b) whether these antiques were registered with the Government of India;

(c) whether these proceeds would be repatriated to India and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the party which is selling these antiques; and

(e) whether he will have matter looked into and place the full facts of the deal on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). According to the newspaper report, the furnishings sold by the Southeby's auctioneers, belonged to the late Maharaja of Indore Yeswant Rao Holkar who got them designed by Craftsmen from France and elsewhere in the third decade of the present century. Accordingly, these furnishings being less than 100 years old, are not antiquities and as such are not required to be registered under the provisions of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972.

(d) and (e). Does not arise.

**H.U.D.CO's Loan for Weaker Sections**

926. SHRI SATYA GOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the West Bengal Government requested the Housing and Urban Development Corporation to sanction loans to build flats for weaker sections;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) steps so far taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) No, Sir.

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

#### Production of Oilseeds and Pulses

927. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the concrete steps which have so far been taken to increase the production of oilseeds and pulses;

(b) the demand and supply from indigenous sources at present of these items; and

(c) when Government propose to stop import of edible oil?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH FAO): (a) The following steps have been taken to increase the production of oilseeds and pulses:

- (i) Under separate centrally sponsored schemes for pulses and oilseeds, an intensive programme is under implementation in 56 districts for pulses and 90 districts for oilseeds. Among other things, these schemes aim at demonstrations on farmers fields, strengthening of seed production arrangements, expansion of plant protection measures, production of rhizobium culture and training for farmers and extension workers;
- (ii) In addition, States are undertaking pulses and oilseeds development programmes from their own funds;
- (iii) Increasing the area under short duration varieties of pulses

and oilseeds through catch cropping and inter-cropping;

(iv) Intensification of research efforts.

(b). Estimates of demand and supply of pulses and oilseeds from indigenous sources at present are not yet available.

(c) Vigorous efforts are being made to increase the production of oilseeds in the country. The decision to stop import of edible oils can be taken only when the gap between demand and supply is bridged.

#### Temporary Telephone Connection in Delhi

928. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many temporary telephone connections exist at present in Delhi and minimum as well as maximum period for which such connections exist;

(b) whether Government have proposed to make all such temporary connections into permanent lines beyond certain period of its existence; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to consider such a proposal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) Total number of temporary telephone connections working in Delhi Telephones is 2112. The minimum and maximum period for such connections is 3 months and 9 years 4 months.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.