

five lakh Elite seednuts of T×T at full bearing.

(iv) A 102 hectare coconut seed farm has also been established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for production of four different hybrids and two common varieties. This farm is estimated to produce around half a million seednuts annually, at full bearing.

Thus enough quantity of hybrid seedlings are expected to be available when all these seed gardens reach full production stage.

(c) Import of seed material requires great care so that new diseases and pests are not unwittingly imported with the seeds. However, the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have already in their collection 62 foreign cultivars which are being studied.

Further the Institute is also trying to organise an International Survey of Asia and Pacific Ocean to collect coconut genetic material, to ascertain if some of them would be resistant to coconut wilt disease.

P.C.O.s in Orissa during 1979-80

5768. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of P.C.O.s sanctioned in Orissa during 1979-80;

(b) the number of P.C.O.s remain yet to be commissioned;

(c) the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps which Government have taken for early commissioning of public call offices for the benefit of the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) 56.

(b) 77.

(c) Due to non-availability of line and wire material.

(d) The procurement of stores is being pursued and efforts are being made to expedite completion of the works.

Sugarcane Price in Kerala

5769. SHRI P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the price offered to the sugarcane growers in Kerala was very low when compared with the high cost of production in the State;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to give better remunerative prices to the growers;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from the sugarcane growers in Kerala requesting for a better remunerative price; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). The statutory minimum prices of sugarcane notified for payment by sugar factories in Kerala during the current season 1979-80 range between Rs. 12.50 to Rs. 13.68 per quintal. These are based on a basic minimum price of Rs. 12.50 per quintal linked to a recovery of Rs. 8.5 per cent or below announced by Government for payment uniformly throughout the country. This price was announced after careful consideration of all relevant factors, including the cost of cultivation of sugarcane.

For the next crushing season 1980-81, Government will announce the minimum price before the start of the season in October, 1980 after consulting the State Governments and the concerned associations.

(c) and (d). It is indicated by the Government of Kerala that representations have been received by them from cane growers for enhancement of the sugarcane price and that they have proposed to give, out of their own funds, a subsidy of Rs. 20 per tonne of sugarcane to be purchased by sugar mills during 1980-81 season to enable the mills to pay a price of Rs. 150 per tonne.

Civil and Political rights to Teachers

5770. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in some States teachers are denied the fundamental civil and political rights e.g. right to form associations, right to seek election in statutory bodies; and

(b) what do the Government propose to do to ensure such civil and political rights to teachers?

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

(a) and (b). The information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Mortality Rate of Hybrid Cattle

5771. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mortality rate of hybrid cattle has been found to be high;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether heifers in cattle breeding camps and Government owned dairy farms are also facing high mortality rate; and

(d) what are the comparative mortality rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). No, Sir, the limited studies carried out so far have shown that the mortality rate in hybrid dairy cattle at 50 per cent exotic blood, viz. half-bred, is not high. However, in the case of hybrids with more than 62.5 per cent of the exotic blood the mortality rate has been found to be higher as compared to half-breds or hybrids with 62.5 per cent exotic inheritance.

In the case of hybrids with more than 62.5 per cent exotic inheritance, susceptibility to animal diseases prevalent in India increases and such animals require better managerial regime. Since the cross-bred calves have to develop adaptability to the tropical environment and as they are more susceptible to the animal diseases prevalent in India than the indigenous stock, the mortality among them is higher.

(c) and (d) The cross-bred heifers in cattle breeding farms and Government owned dairy farms are not facing high mortality rate

The limited survey studies carried out so far on organised cattle farms have shown the following comparative mortality rates in hybrid cattle/calves vis-a-vis indigenous breeds of dairy cattle/calves.

	Percent. ge Mortality
Cattle (3 months to 18 months)	
(i) Zebu (indigenous) cattle in a Govt. owned dairy cattle breeding farm	12.8
(ii) Hybrids (50% exotic blood)	10.5
(b) Calves (upto 3 months age)	
(i) Zebu breeds (indigenous breeds)	10.81
(ii) Zebu (indigenous)-Taurus (Exotic) cross-bred calves (50% exotic blood)	21.78