

Scientists in I.C.A.R.

179. SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many scientists have been working in the ICAR;

(b) the different streams in which Research work is conducted by the Institute;

(c) how many scientists of the Institute went abroad during the last three years, year-wise and expenditure incurred by the Government under the head; and

(d) details of the scientists who left the Institute after receiving education abroad during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) About 4,100 scientists.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Availability of Nutrient from Organic Waste

180. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated availability of nutrients from organic waste in the country; and

(b) the plans being made by the Central and State Governments to utilise this for productivity and rural needs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Exact quantification of nutrient availability through wastes is difficult, as no systematic scientific survey appears to have been carried out.

(b) Apart from the age-old practice of farmers recycling organic wastes through composting etc., both the State and Central Government are paying attention to this important source of nutrient through various programmes.

After the transfer in 1979 of the Government of India's scheme of 'Development of Local Manurial Resources', which encompassed schemes like biogas, greenmanuring, sewage and sullage, mechanical compost plants, etc. to the State Sector under the decision of the National Development Council, provisions are being made by several State Governments in their Sixth Plan which are being finalised. The Government of India is planning to embark upon an ambitious programme of biogas development at an estimated cost of Rs. 50 crores during the Sixth Plan.

Gift of USSR Machinery for Suratgarh Farm

181. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S.S.R. is gifting farm machinery to India for use at Suratgarh State Farm in Rajasthan as reported in the "Hindustan Times" dated 20th April, 1980;

(b) if so, the value of the machinery together with the details of the machinery and equipments to be gifted; and

(c) the extent to which this machinery will be useful for boosting the production at Suratgarh farm?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes Sir. State Farms Corporation of India Ltd. (a Government of India Undertaking) has already received the gift machinery from USSR.

(b) Details of the machinery and equipments alongwith its value is given at Annexure.

(c) With the utilisation of new machinery, the cropped area at Suratgarh farm will be increased from 10575 hectares (taken in 1978-79) to 13000 hectares by the end of 1984-85. The machinery will also be useful to ensure timely and effective mechanical operations and harvest of crops in time.