

Cultivation of Turmeric and Mulberry Bushes in North Bengal District

2412. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to attach top priority to tree planting in the North Bengal districts ;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to expedite the work ;

(c) whether Government propose to consider to bring the entire high forest area in the districts under the cultivation of turmeric and Mulberry bushes for the production of indigenous silk without adversely affecting the valuable trees that exist ;

(d) if so, details of the scheme ; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected from the State and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Assistance to Karnataka for Poultry Centres

2413. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to give proper weightage to poultry during Sixth Plan ;

(b) whether any assistance has been given to Karnataka during 1981-82 for opening some poultry centres ; and

(c) if so, the number and names of places where such centres will be opened during sixth plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN) : (a) Poultry development has already been given proper weightage during the Sixth Plan period.

(b) and (c). The establishment of poultry farms/centres falls in the State Sector. An allocation of Rs. 36 lakhs has been made to Karnataka State by the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction for setting up of poultry, piggery and sheep production units during 1981-82 in the districts of Gulbarga, Tumkur and Dharwar under the Special Livestock Production Programme for small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers. The target is to cover 600 families on an average in one district per year. Further, under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) of the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction, poultry units can also be set up out of the total allocation of Rs. 35 lakhs per block in Karnataka during the Sixth Plan period.

Research Work by Central Rice Research Institute in Karnataka

2414. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Rice Research Institute has conducted any research work in Karnataka ;

(b) if so, when was the research conducted;

(c) what are the main suggestions given in the latest research report about development of agriculture in Karnataka ; and

(d) the reaction of the Government on it ?

THE STATE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Researches on Indo-Japonica hybridization was conducted by the Scientists of the Central Rice Research Institute's located at Naganhalli in Karnataka during 1962 to 1965. Since 1966, the State has been actively engaged in conducting rice research work on varietal improvement, agronomic and plant protection aspects under the All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project of the I. C. A. R.

(c) The main suggestions for increasing rice productivity in the state pertain to cultivation of suitable varieties and following of appropriate plant production and protection measures. As a result of the research efforts made, several high yielding and improved varieties have been identified as suitable for the State. The short duration varieties like Rasi, Akashi, Culture ARC-11775 and MR 272 are recommended for upland rice cultivation. The variety Pragati is recommended for areas presently growing IR-20. Other varieties like Sona, Vani, Prakash and gall midge resistant varieties like Vikaram, Sakti, Phalgun and CR 94-72 have also been recommended for gall midge endemic areas. For problem areas, in monsoon season, sturdy varieties like Pankaj, Jagannath, IET 3257, RPW 677, CR 1009, CR 1014 and IET 5854 have been

recommended for early planting in coastal areas.

(ii) Fertilizer application at the rate of 80-100 kg/N/ha in irrigated and 50-60 kg/N/ha in rainfed areas have been observed to be optimum dose. The application of Azolla and Blue-green-algae in rice fields indicate usefulness of bio-fertilizer application in supplying nitrogen. For popularising bio-fertilizer application in the State in rice, improved Azolla Culture has been supplied to the State and training has been imparted for using it. Chemical control measures for different diseases and pests have also been developed and recommended for popularisation.

(d) The Government of Karnataka and the University of Agricultural Sciences are actively collaborating with Central Rice Research Institute and the All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project of the I.C.A.R. in executing various research programmes and popularising the proven research results amongst the farmers.

Drinking Water in Karnataka

2415. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of drought-prone villages in Karnataka have no source of water supply ;

(b) if so, whether State Government has approached the Centre for assistance for rural water supply programme ;

(c) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government on it ;