

(b) According to the information available in the Ministry of Rural Development, construction of rural roads came to receive more systematic attention at the national level after the inclusion of the subject in the minimum Needs Programme (MNP) under the Fifth Five Year Plan. 'Rural Roads' is a component of the Sixth Five Year Plan also.

The Working Group on Rural Roads set up by the National Transport Policy Committee of the Planning Commission has estimated that there was an average annual increase of 9000 km. of rural roads each year since independence and that as on 31-3-1978, there were approximately 5,00,000 kms of rural roads in the country.

#### Improvement of Seed with Laser

1214. SHRI R. N. RAKESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of improvement of seeds with Laser achieved by USSR scientists (UN Agri Service, 13-1-83) and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Indian scientists have launched similar other programmes in this direction and if so, the details thereof and results achieved;

(c) the expenditure so far incurred on use of radiation for seed improvements in India and the detail of seeds developed by this method; and

(d) whether it is a fact that radiation method started in Western countries has been more or less given up and if so its status in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Government are not aware of the work reported to have been done in USSR for crop improvement with Laser beams and the Government have no

programme at present for exploring the possibilities of use of Laser beams for crop Improvement.

(c) The crop improvement by radiation is an integral part of the normal crop improvement programmes and projects, and there is no separate budget allocation specifically for this purpose. The major advances in the application of radiation treatment for crop improvement in India has been in the development of wheat varieties like Sharbati Sonora, NP 836, and further improvement of commercial varieties like C 306 and NP 880. An improved castor variety Aruna, dwarf early maturing rice varieties like CRM-13 and Culture No. 1; Groundnut varieties TG-3 and TG-17 and Jute variety TG 40 developed by use of radiations and showing higher productivity have been released for cultivation.

(d) We are not aware that radiation method for crop improvement started in Western countries has been more or less given up by them. As far as we are concerned, crop improvement by radiation treatment is still being pursued in many important institutions in India including the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay and Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes.

#### Supply of wheat stock infected with Karnal Bunt by FCI

1215. SHRI T. S. NEGI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state whether Food Corporation of India (FCI) has any wheat in stock, totally and fully free from Karnal Bunt infection and if so, the details of these quantity and places of storage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): The Food Corporation of

India purchases wheat according to the specification laid by the Department of Food, Government of India, wherein the limits for damaged grain are 2 per cent and 3 percent in case of grades 1 and 2 respectively. In case of wheat containing Karnal Bunt infected grains, the maximum limit of damaged grain including Karal Bunt infected grains should not exceed 5 per cent in grade 2.

As the wheat procured by the Food Corporation of India in different States, may contain Karnal Bunt infected grains within the approved specifications it would not be possible to say what quantity of wheat with FCI is free from this infection or where it is stored.

#### Construction of Stadium in States

1216. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering about construction of composite Stadium in any State or about helping any State Government for such construction and if so, where;

(b) whether the Government are considering or will consider to help the West Bengal Government to construct the Salt-Lake Stadium at Calcutta; and

(c) if so, how and when?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-  
TARY AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND  
WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI  
BUTA SINGH): (a) The Department  
of Sports is implementing a Central  
Scheme namely Grants to State Sports  
Councils etc. under which financial  
assistance on a sharing basis, subject  
to certain specified ceilings, is given  
to State Government/Union Terri-  
tory Administrations for development  
of sports and games: including for the  
construction of composite stadia/  
sports complexes. Applications under

the Scheme are invited every year  
and are considered by this Depart-  
ment in consultation with the All  
India Council of Sports. For getting  
assistance during 1982-83, proposals  
have been received from the Govern-  
ments of Assam, Karnataka, Orissa,  
Madhya Pradesh and Arunachal Pra-  
desh for meeting a part of expendi-  
ture on construction of composite sta-  
dia/sports complexes in their respec-  
tive States. These applications, along-  
with other applications under the  
Scheme, have been considered in  
consultation with the All India Coun-  
cil of Sports. If and when the State  
Governments concerned would fulfil  
(before the close of the current finan-  
cial year) the conditions stipulated  
under the Scheme, the Central grant  
admissible for construction of compo-  
site stadia will be released to them.

(b) and (c). In the current finan-  
cial year no request for financial as-  
sistance for construction of the Salt-  
Lake Stadium at Calcutta has been  
received from the Government of West  
Bengal. If and when such a request  
is received, the same will be consi-  
dered on merits, in consultation with  
the All India Council of Sports.

#### Proposal to pay sugarcane price to farmers immediately after delivery of sugarcane

1217. SHRI RAM PRASAD AHIR-  
WAR: Will the Minister of FOOD  
AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to  
state:

(a) whether any proposal is under  
consideration of Government accord-  
ing to which the farmer would get  
the price of his sugarcane there and  
then; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF  
THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND  
CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT  
JHA AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.