

(b) Jute seeds are produced mostly in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. During last 2 years, the adverse weather conditions affected the production in these States. This resulted in inadequate availability of jute seeds in the Eastern States which produce jute in this country. However, efforts are being made to increase the jute seeds production in these 2 States as well as in Eastern States. In past, there were years when jute seed was in excess supply compared to the requirements.

(c) and (d). National Seeds Corporation have already established Regional offices in the Eastern Sector, such as Patna, Calcutta, Gauhati, etc. in addition to large number of sub-units in these States. They have appointed 1667 seed dealers, including Cooperatives in this Zone for distribution of certified seeds. In addition, UPST and DC have large network of distribution in this Zone. National Seeds Corporation is also expanding the production programme through contract growers to increase the availability of seeds. The States Seed Corporations of Orissa, Bihar and Assam have also taken up large production programme of seeds in the respective States.

Implementation of National Oilseeds Development Project

3593. SHRI CHHITTUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) details regarding the progress so far achieved regarding implementation of National Oilseeds Development Project during the current financial year ; and

(b) the number of villages so far covered under this scheme in Gujarat and those that would be covered during the current financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The National Oilseeds Development Project will be implemented during the year 1984-85 and has not been implemented in the current financial year ;

(b) In view of the reply given at (a)

above, the question does not arise.

Implementation of Recommendations of Committee on Shifting Cultivation

3594. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the report on shifting cultivation has been sent to concerned Ministries, departments and to the States and Union Territories by Government ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by them to implement the recommendation so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Board on Shifting Cultivation at national level, with membership extending to all the States and Union Territories and the Ministries of the Government of India concerned with shifting cultivation, met in January, 1984 and took a collective view on the steps necessary concerning the recommendations in the report. The broad strategy agreed upon was to wean away the shifting cultivators from this practice, through beneficiary-oriented programmes, aiming at providing alternative occupation and economic upliftment. In addition to the individual States and Union Territories taking further steps for the purpose, the Government of India propose to keep in view the requirement of funds during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

India First to Grow Paddy

3595. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Research Institutes in India after careful study have come to the conclusion that India was the first country in the world to grow paddy ;

(b) whether it is also reported that paddy was grown around Jeypore in Koraput District of Orissa ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government