

of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 for detection of any person with a view to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of supplies of any essential commodity. Fertiliser has already been declared an essential commodity.

(b) and (c). The prices of most of the commonly used fertilisers are statutorily controlled under the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1957. The standard specifications of various fertilisers are also fixed under the same Order.

Any body selling fertiliser not conforming to prescribed specifications of charging prices in excess of those fixed under the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1957 can be punished under the law.

#### Development of Bacterial Culture

3183. SHRI K. MALLANNA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a bacterial culture which enhances the yield of wheat, paddy, potato and pulses by 10 to 50 per cent has been developed by scientists at the Indian Agriculture Research Institute, New Delhi ; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Work on bacterial cultures is in progress at Indian Agricultural Research Institute. However, the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi have at no stage made a claim that the application of these cultures can increase the yields of different crops upto 50 per cent.

(b) The IARI, New Delhi has been doing intensive basic and applied work on bio-fertilizers like *rhizobia*, blue-green algae and more recently on certain other and lesser known non-symbiotic nitrogen fixing micro-organisms like *Azotobacter* and *Azospirillum*.

The data obtained from pot culture as well as field experiments have shown that

the application of these bacterial cultures can help in increasing the yields from 10 to 15 per cent only.

#### Cultivation on Dry River and Tank Beds in Summer

3184. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to introduce cultivation on the dry river and tank beds during summer where moisture and silt are available ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the feasibility of various crops which can be raised in these areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Feasibility-study of growing suitable crops on Diara land is in progress. However, dry river beds are sometimes utilised by cultivators for growing crops like melon, cucurbits, etc.

#### Tamil Nadu's Scheme to Increase Groundnut Production

3185. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme for increasing production of groundnut, has been submitted by Tamil Nadu to Central Government for approval ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). Government of India has received only a copy of the proposal namely Project for Intensive Cultivation of Groundnut during 1984-85 under the National Oilseeds Deve-