

(a) the centres of ICAR Coordinated Research Projects on Cattle Breeding Projects which Government consider optimally performing and likely to achieve the project objective and the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether Government are considering to start a large cross-breeding research project on cattle at military dairy farms ; if so, when and details thereof including objectives and programme of work envisaged ;

(c) whether contrary to cross-breeding with European breeds of cattle involved, Government now propose to start a research project without recourse to cross-breeding and if so, details thereof with justification for reversal of Government policy and approach in cattle breeding researches and whether developmental strategies have also been correspondingly changed ; and

(d) what conclusive cattle breeding strategies Government recommend now, State-wise, which are new and an outcome of researches from fifties ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The centres of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Cattle are generally working satisfactorily.

(b) No, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is not considering to start a large cross-breeding project on cattle at military dairy farms. However, considering the results obtained under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Cattle it is contemplated to start a project for studying the genetic aspects of production in Holstein crossbreds and for taking up progeny testing of Holstein crossbred bulls, using the crossbred foundation population available with the military dairy farms.

(c) In addition to research programmes for improving milk production the ICAR propose to start a research project for improvement of the important indigenous breeds of cattle through selection using progeny testing of bulls for either draft or milk.

(d) There is no change as such in the

policy of the Government on cattle breeding. The ICAR has constituted a group of experts for formulating the Breeding Strategy for Cattle which will review the results so far available and recommend a breeding strategy for cattle for the country. For the present the Council recommends selective breeding in important indigenous (milch, draft and dual purpose) breeds of cattle, grading up of nondescript cattle with important indigenous breeds and cross-breeding non-descript low producing cattle with exotic breeds viz., Holstein and Jersey, in the milk sheds of large consuming markets where there is a possibility of providing irrigated cultivated fodder.

Request from West Bengal for Assistance for Development of Horticulture

3230. SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government, ICAR or any institution under ICAR has received any request from the West Bengal Government for assistance for development of horticulture ;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken pursuant to such proposal ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is considering a proposal for starting a Centre for transfer of research information and technology on mango at Malda, West Bengal in the VII Plan. At present, the proposed sites for the purpose are being examined.

(c) The question does not arise.

Licence for manufacturing Vanaspathi at Barwaha in Madhya Pradesh

3231. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Madhya