

information is being obtained from the State Governments and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

**Use of Nuclear Technology to evolve
A Mutant of Cotton**

836. SHRI VARKEY GEORGE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Scientists at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute have successfully used nuclear technology to evolve a mutant of Cotton that could end the present cotton crisis in the country;

(b) whether the evolution of this mutant would help the country to reduce its dependence on the import of long staple cotton; and

(c) if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) : (a) It is true that the scientists at I.A.R.I. have successfully used nuclear technology for evolving a mutant of fine quality cotton. Improvement in cotton production however is needed in the short and medium staple categories as well as in the long staple types.

(b) If the mutant becomes suitable for release, it would make a contribution towards import substitution. 7.14 lakh bales are being imported annually at present in the long staple category (3.21 lakh bales of extra-long staple 1-3/16 inch staple length and above) and 3.93 lakh bales of superior long (34-37/32") and long (31-33/32") staple lengths. A variety known as MCU-5 evolved by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore has long staple length and good spinning quality. However, the variety can be grown only in the South, since it needs a long photo period for maturing. Hence it is unsuitable for cultivation in the cotton tracts of the North. To overcome this

difficulty, scientists at the I.A.R.I. irradiated the seeds of MCU-5 and evolved a mutant which possess the long staple length of the parent (MCU-5) but is capable of flowering in 45-50 days and maturing in 150 days. The seeds of the mutant are being multiplied for testing.

(c) It will be premature to venture a guess.

Self-Sufficiency in Insecticides

837. SHRI NAGESHWARA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the States and the Union Territories which are self-sufficient in respect of insecticides used for agriculture and horticulture; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to make all States and Union Territories self-sufficient ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) : (a) The States and Union Territories keep sufficient stocks of insecticides for their plant protection programme and replenish them frequently. The supply of pesticides to the farmer is either done directly by the State agencies or through the cooperatives and private trade channels. Excepting Tamil Nadu where over 90 per cent of the trading in pesticides is in the State sector, in other States and Union Territories all the three agencies are in operation. During the year 1971-72, the availability and supply position of pesticides throughout the country remained satisfactory barring occasional shortages of a few selected imported pesticides like endrin, carbaryl and endosulfan.

(b) Manufacturing and formulating units are located in different States. All that is required to be ensured is that pesticides are available in sufficient quantities and in time in State/Union

Territory. The State Governments usually estimate their requirements in advance and arrange supplies through various agencies including private trade. The insecticides have been considered as essential inputs for increasing the agricultural and horticultural production and the industry engaged in the production of insecticides of which currently 38 different kinds are being produced has been considered as a priority and key industry and all Government support and encouragement is being given to increase production so that adequate supply of pesticides is maintained in the country. The pesticides which are not yet manufactured in the country, are being imported in sufficient quantities.

Pulses Development Council

838. SHRI NAGESHWARA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) when the Government issued a Press Note announcing its intention to set up a Pulses Development Council;

(b) when this Council was actually constituted; and

(c) the composition and functions of the Council ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). A Resolution constituting the Pulses Development Council was notified on 15-1-1970.

(c) A statement showing the composition and functions of the Council is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1489/72]

Replacement of All India Council of Sports

839. SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) since when the All India Council of Sports has ceased to exist;

(b) whether any replacement of it as an Advisory Body to Government is contemplated; and

(c) if so, when such body is going to be set up and what are to be the principles of its composition ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY): (a) 14-11-1970.

(b) The All India Sports Council is going to be reconstituted.

(c) It will be set up soon and principles of Composition are under consideration.

12.02 hrs.

Re: ALLEGED MURDER OF A MEMBER OF BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

SOME HON. MEMBERS: *Rose --*

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): A CPI Member of Bihar Assembly has been shot in Patna in his own flat by seven persons. I would not have raised this issue had there been an Assembly there. Not even the Council of the Ministers has been appointed there. This gentleman was elected from Ramgarh, defeating the Congress candidate, because in this seat there was no compromise. He belongs to the minority community. He was shot dead in his flat. The Centre should institute a CBI enquiry. (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER: You must be aware that the Ministries have now started functioning in the States. President's rule is not continuing there. I quite agree that it is very gruesome tragedy, but the proper forum for raising this matter is the State Assembly. In future, when you