

involved examination of eye of a "member of students, the National Society for Prevention of Blindness as recommended, among other things, that the school going age of all children should be 6½ years. Previously, the Society conducted a symposium on 'Prevention of blindness in infants' in New Delhi on 22 January, 1971, at which one of the main conclusions was that primary education, before the age of 6, should be in the form of oral instructions and very little of reading and writing work, and regular schooling, with instructions by books and writing work, should be introduced from the age of 6 onwards.

This recommendation of the Society was forwarded to the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations for consideration.

According to Compulsory Primary Education Acts, the minimum age of admission to primary schools in many States is 6½ years. In some States the age restriction for voluntary admission is 5½ years. It is, however, acknowledged that in educating children before this age-level, the stress should be on the use of play-way materials and on activities, rather than on formal education involving reading and writing.

#### Evolution of Spring Soyabean

4744. SHRI PAMPAN GOWDA:

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Agricultural Research Institute has evolved a 'spring soyabean' variety which may prove a boon to farmers in Northern and Central India; and

(b) if so, whether this variety has been sown and if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Trials carried out at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute for two seasons have shown that two American 3001 LS—6.

Varieties Clark-63 and Adelphia are suitable for raising a spring crop (Feb.-June) after the harvest of sugarcane, potato, toria and winter vegetables, under assured irrigation facilities. These varieties are early and mature in 90-100 days as spring sown crop. Both are yellow-seeded. It was possible to obtain yields ranging from 30-35 quintals per hectare in the experimental plots. The crop in this season is free from several pests and diseases. No large scale plantings have been tried.

#### Area Under Cashew Kernel

4745. SHRI PAMPAN GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the total area under cashew kernel cultivation and the average annual yield?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): According to the *ad hoc* estimates, the area and production of cashewnut in 1969-70 was as follows:—

Area:	234.9 (000 Hects).
Production:	196.6 (000 Tonnes)

#### Investigation for Real Causes of Cancer

4746. SHRI PAMPAN GOWDA:  
SHRI ATAL BIHARI  
VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have investigated the real causes of cancer;

(b) whether one-third of those who die of cancer could be saved if the knowledge available for every diagnoses and treatment is applied without waiting for further research; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?