

hybrids known as 'Natural Cross Dwarfs' have been found to be relatively less susceptible under field conditions and hold promise in the future against this disease which causes a total annual loss of about Rs. 20.00 crores. The following other relatively less important diseases have also been noticed.

- (i) Leaf rot;
- (ii) Bud rot;
- (iii) Thattipake disease;
- (iv) Canoderma wilt.

The extent of damage on account of these diseases has not been assessed.

Leprosy Sanatoria

948. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any Central Schemes to provide financial or any other assistance to the leprosy sanatoria run in various States;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

(c) the types of assistance rendered by the Government to the leprosy sanatorium in Noorad, Kerala; and

(d) what are the requests, Government have received from those institutions for assistance?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI KON-DAJJI BASAPPA): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No assistance has been given to the Leprosy Sanatorium in Noorad.

(d) No requests have been received by the Central Government.

Production of Rice during Kharif Crop

949. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the production of rice in the various States during the current kharif crop and the percentage of increase in comparison to last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): The estimates of rice production during the kharif season of the current year are not yet available. However, on account of the inadequate and erratic nature of rainfall and the prevalence of long dry spell in various areas in the country, the production of rice during the current year (1972-73) is likely to be lower than that in the previous year (1971-72).

High Power Committee on taking over of Whole Sale Trade of Wheat and Rice

950. SHRI P. GANGADEB:
SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a high power committee to examine and resolve various difficulties in the implementation of the proposal for taking over the whole sale trade in wheat and rice;

(b) if so, who are the members of the Panel;

(c) when they are likely to submit their recommendations; and

(d) when the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) The Committee has submitted its recommendations to the Government.

(d) The final decision is being taken in consultation with the State Governments.

Statement

The Committee constituted to examine and resolve the various difficulties in the implementation of the decision to takeover wholesale trade in wheat and rice consisted of the following members:—

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Union Minister of Agriculture | Chairman |
| 2. Union Minister of Planning | Member |
| 3. Union Minister of Finance | ” |
| 4. Union Minister of State for Agriculture | ” |
| 5. Food Minister of Gujarat | ” |
| 6. Food Minister of Punjab | ” |
| 7. Food Minister of Tamil Nadu | ” |
| 8. Food Minister of Uttar Pradesh | ” |
| 9. Food Minister of West Bengal | ” |

Proposal for National Open University

951. SHRI P. GANGADEB:
SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to have a National Open University in the country;

(b) if so, when the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken;

(c) whether this Open University will have jurisdiction over the entire

country supplemented by a large programme of Correspondence Courses; and

(d) if so, what will be the other features of the proposed Open University?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): (a) to (d). The proposal is still in the preliminary stages of examination.

The Model Cooperative Dispensary Scheme for Unemployed Doctors.

952. SHRI P. GANGADEB:
SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

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

(a) whether the Planning Commission has commended the Model Co-operative Dispensary Scheme for unemployed doctors launched recently by the Kerala Government;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry are also considering to introduce such Scheme in other States; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI KONDAJJI BASAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission have approved the Scheme of the Government of Kerala for the establishment of co-operative dispensaries for unemployed doctors under the Special Employment Programme. The Government of Kerala have proposed to open eleven co-operative dispensaries, one in each district as a pilot project in 1972-73.

(b) and (c). At the last meeting of the Central Council of Health held on the 30th January—1st February, 1973, the State Governments/Union Territories were asked to take advantage