

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) The Fifth Five Year Plan provisions for various items in different States have not yet been finalised.

(b) It is proposed to give priority in hydro-geological investigations to chronologically drought affected areas in the country. Chittoor District will be included in such areas.

Establishment of Agricultural Schools

4435. SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved schemes for bringing about establishment of Agricultural Schools as a step towards vocationalising education;

(b) if so, salient feature thereof; and

(c) what other schemes are contemplated for achieving the objective of vocationalising education?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): (a) to (c). Large number of schools are already teaching Agriculture in the High School classes. Agricultural sciences also figure as special subjects in Higher Secondary Schools. More schools will be permitted to teach Agriculture and allied subjects according to demand in the Fifth Plan.

It is learnt that Indian Council for Agricultural Research has under consideration a scheme of establishing 50 Farm Science Centres (Krishi Vigyan Kendras) during the Fifth Plan. The Ministry of Education has proposed a Central scheme for introducing new vocational courses at the higher secondary stage in selected higher secondary schools in the country. A target of 1000 schools has been proposed.

Import of Foodgrains during last three years

4436. SHRI YOGESH CHANDRA MURMU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of wheat import from Australia, U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Canada and other exporting countries during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether several countries have reduced the export of agreed quantum; and

(c) if so, on what ground and to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) Country-wise wheat imports during the last three years are:

	(In '000 tonnes)		
	1971	1972	1973
Exporting country	1971	1972	1973
Argentina			189
Australia	121	23	—
Canada	459	220	614
U.S.A.	1234	71	1381
U.S.S.R.		—	230

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Difficulty in Importing Edible Oil

4437. SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are facing some difficulty in importing edible oil due to its high prices abroad; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed?

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

(b) Efforts are being made to step up indigenous production of edible oil seeds/