

facilities (including deep and shallow-tubewells and river lift schemes) and selected regulated markets in certain areas of West Bengal was negotiated with the International Development Association (an affiliate of the World Bank) recently for a 4-year credit of approximately U.S. \$4 million. Formalities for the credit are expected to be completed in about a month's time.

Water dispute between Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana

5227 SHRI S N MISRA Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state

(a) the details of water disputes between Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana; and

(b) the cases which were considered in the zonal conference and the progress made in each case?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH) (a) and (b) The main outstanding issue relating to water in the region is the one pertaining to the distribution of erstwhile Punjab's share of surplus Ravi-Beas waters between the reorganised successor States of Punjab and Haryana. The Union Government is trying to resolve the matter in consultation with the concerned States.

Besides this, there are some differences between the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. Of these the following two have been discussed in the Northern zonal council meetings:—

- (i) Handing over of Headworks at Ferozepur, Hamke and Rupar to Bhakra Management Board (relates to Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana).
- (ii) Share cost of the Ghaggar Diversion scheme in Rajasthan (relates to Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan)

The Union Government is continuing its efforts to resolve these differences.

Some other matters viz construction of Kanianwali minor by Punjab on Bikaner Canal, regulation of supplies at contact points of Bhakra Canal System and utilization by Rajasthan of its share of Ravi Beas Waters are under discussion between the Government, of the concerned States

Development of a new grain by Punjab Agriculture University

5228. SHRI P VENKATASUBBAIAH.

SHRI D. D. DESAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state

(a) whether a new miracle grain by name 'Triticale' has been developed at the research laboratories of the Punjab Agriculture University;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof, and

(c) the programme chalked out for its mass production, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) 'Triticale' is a cross between wheat and Rye which has been under testing in many countries for several years. Intensive research on Triticale was initiated in India from 1964-65 onwards at four locations namely, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana G B Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar (U.P.) and Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur (at its Indore Campus). Several strains from this cross have been developed at each of these Centres. These cultures alongwith

material received from the International Maize and Wheat Research Centre, Mexico, are being tested under the All-India Coordinated Project on Wheat. Their yields are being compared among themselves and also with wheat yields.

The varieties of 'Triticale' developed by the Punjab Agricultural University are also being currently tested under the coordinated trials. The Punjab Agricultural University varieties namely TL 22, TL 17 and TL 19 are now under uniform varietal trials. The other varieties namely TL 21, TL 23, TL 10 and TL 24 along-with TL 17, TL 22 and TL 19 are also being tested under the initial evaluation trials at many locations.

From the results so far obtained on the performance of Triticale varieties it appears that Triticales may be promising for dry areas particularly for cooler places in the hills.

The principal limitation in this man-made hybrid cereal are reduced fertility, shrunken grains, proneness to lodging and tendency for breaking of spikelets and spikes.

(c) A programme for mass production will be undertaken as soon as the data from the trials currently in progress lead to the identification of strains fit for large scale cultivation.

Production and Export of Basmati rice

5229. SHRI P. VENKATASUBALAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether though India is the largest producer of rice at 40 to 45 million tonnes annually, the production of basmati variety of rice accounts for only 0.1 per cent;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to step up the production of basmati rice in view of the increasing demand from Gulf countries; and

(c) the target of production and exports likely to be achieved during 1975-76?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL): (a). Average production of rice in India during 1969-70-1973-74 has been estimated at 42 million tonnes. Firm estimates of production of basmati variety of rice are not available. However, a rough estimate puts the annual production of this variety of rice at 15 lakh tonnes. On this basis, this variety of rice accounts for 0.36 per cent of average production of all rice.

(b) The National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation have been asked to encourage contract cultivation of additional quantities of basmati rice in the States of Bihar, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and U.P.

(c) No separate targets are fixed for the production of basmati rice. A quantity of 50,000 tonnes of basmati rice is likely to be exported during 1975-76.

Setting up of Universities in Fifth Plan

5230. SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state

(a) the number of Universities proposed to be set up during the Fifth Five Year Plan, State-wise; and

(b) the criteria adopted by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN) (a). The Central Government has established one Central University at Hyderabad during 1974-75. It has also been decided to set up a Central University in Pondicherry during the Fifth Five Year Plan. A proposal to set up a Central Open University is also under examination.