

(b) when was this Council established and how much expenditure has been incurred on this Council since then;

(c) what are the achievements of this Council so far; and

(d) whether it is proposed to abolish this Council and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL) (a) to (d). The Council was set up on 30th March, 1972, and an expenditure of approximately Rs. 57,958 has been incurred upto November, 1974. No formal meeting of the Council has so far been held. A lot of preliminary work however has been done, such as collection and compilation of data in regard to the area, production, pattern of consumption and quality of wheat in the important wheat exporting countries. A symposium on the 'Role of Wheat in the progress of Mankind' was organised in February, 1974, and a Conference was also held in Calcutta to devise ways and means to improve the quality of wheat products in the country. In the context of the current food situation and other related factors, the question of its continuance or otherwise is being considered.

New method to increase paddy yield and protein content of rice

3630. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA:

SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:

SHRI D. D. DESAI:

SHRI P. GANGADEB:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new method to increase paddy yield and protein content of rice by the Calcutta University College of Agriculture has been developed;

(b) whether experiments of this technique were carried out extensively; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha as soon as possible.

Talks on distribution of waters for the Beas and Ravi Rivers

3631. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state

(a) whether he had called a meeting of Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh in January, 1975 in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether any talks in distribution of waters for the Beas and Ravi rivers were held; and

(c) if so, the decision arrived?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH): (a) A meeting with the Chief Ministers of Punjab and Haryana was to be held on 23rd January, 1975. This meeting could not, however, take place as the Chief Minister, Punjab, could not come for the meeting due to bad weather conditions at Chandigarh Airport.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Crop insurance scheme in Punjab

3632. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab Government has introduced Crop Insurance scheme recently;