

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia;
Shri George Fernandes;

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plans to introduce and popularise "Short duration Crops" to be grown between the two main growing seasons;

(b) if so, the broad details thereof; and

(c) the additional expenditure on these schemes and approximate area to be brought under this scheme?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) and (b). Keeping in view the present difficult food situation in the country mainly on account of drought, it was decided to explore the possibilities of growing short duration varieties of crops between the harvest of the standing rabi crops and the sowings of the next kharif crops. There are certain short duration varieties of 70-90 days' duration of ragi, paddy, maize etc., which could be successfully cultivated during this short period. The State Governments were accordingly addressed to identify such varieties and undertake their cultivation in areas having assured irrigation facilities. The technical experts of the Government of India have also visited some of the States to assist them in drawing up an action programme and in arranging supply of seeds, fertilizers etc.

(c) This programme will not involve any additional expenditure to the Government of India by way of grant. The supply of inputs to the cultivators will be financed through short-term loans.

The information so far received indicates that a total area of about 10 lakh acres is expected to be covered by this programme in the States of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Replacement of I.A.C. Dakotas

812. **Shri Girraj Saran Singh;**
Shri Inderjit Malhotra;
Shri S. K. Taparia;
Shri Meetha Lal;

Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any plan to replace the old Dakotas aircraft of I.A.C. now in service at different routes in India;

(b) if so, by what time these old aircraft will be replaced; and

(c) the type of aircraft which is being put into service instead of the old Dakotas?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). All but 8 Dakotas are likely to be replaced by the middle of 1969 by Pokker Friendship and HS-748 (Avro-748) aircraft. The replacement of the remaining eight Dakotas is under examination.

Drought Relief to States

813. **Shri Bradhakar Supakar;**
Shri Chintamani Panigrahi;
Shri D. N. Patodia;
Shri R. Barua;
Shri Yashpal Singh;
Shri S. C. Samanta;
Shri Hakam Chand Kachwal;
Shri Ram Singh Ayarwal;
Dr. Karnj Singh;
Srimati Nirlep Kaur;

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amount and quantity of foodgrains supplied by the Central Government to the different States so far during this year for drought relief; and

(b) the total amount spent by the States on drought relief including the amount given by the Centre up to the 15th May, 1967?