

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of foreign and Indian tourists visit this place every year;

(d) whether Sohana has been included in the tourists places of India under the programme of the International Tourist year; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Details of the scheme are awaited from the State Government.

(c) No statistics are available about the number of visitors to Sohana. It is however not included in the tourists' itinerary at present due to lack of facilities.

(d) and (e). No, Sir as facilities have not yet been provided.

Trunk Highways in India

822. Shri Sequelra: Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) the main trunk Highways in the country at present;

(b) the load limitation (maximum GVW) permitted on each of these roads in tonnes; and

(c) whether higher loads are going to be permitted and if so, where and when?

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. V. Rao): (a) to (c). The Government of India are primarily responsible for roads declared as National Highways. All roads other than National Highways in States are essentially the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. A list of the roads included in the existing National Highway System is attached. There is no uniform load limitation for vehicles operating on these highways, as the load carrying capacity of various sections of the road and of the bridges and culverts thereon varies widely. The limita-

tion varies from road to road depending upon the condition of roads and bridges, and also from State to State as the subject of laying down load limitations for vehicles operating on roads covering both National Highways and other roads falls within the sphere of State activities. Recently, a suggestion was made to the Chief Engineers of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat and West Bengal to consider permitting a uniform gross laden weight of 15 tons on the Delhi-Bombay and Delhi-Calcutta routes. The enforcement of this increased laden weight limit will become operative as soon as necessary improvements to and strengthening of the road crust and the structures on the road are carried out as and where needed.

Use of Aquifers for Water Supply

823. Shri M. L. Sondhi: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the advantages of aquifers to ensure water supply for food production;

(b) whether Government have studied the proceedings and recommendations of the International Conference on Recharge and Management of aquifers;

(c) whether Government have corresponded with countries which have research projects on aquifers to secure technical know-how; and

(d) whether Government have plans for large scale use of aquifers?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Community Development & Cooperation (Shri Anasahb Shinde): (a) Yes. The Exploratory Tubewells Organisation under the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation has been carrying out ground water exploration in the different parts of the country since

January, 1965 with a view to delineating areas with ground water potentiality for development by tubewell irrigation.

(b) Yes. A senior officer of the Exploratory Tubewell Organisation was also deputed to the International Conference on Artificial Recharge and Aquifer Management held at Haifa (Israel) in March, 1967.

(c) Yes. Active contact is being maintained with countries which are advanced in groundwater development, through correspondence, visits and participation in international seminars/conferences.

(d) Yes. The Exploratory Tubewell Organisation will continue to carry out groundwater exploration in different parts of the country during the Fourth Plan. Besides, a Centrally sponsored Scheme for Groundwater Surveys and Investigations has also been approved for implementation by the State Governments during the Fourth Plan. This Scheme will be complementary to the activities of the Exploratory Tubewell Organisation and would be confined to drilling up to a depth of 250 feet only.

Surplus Stock of Bajra in Mysore State

824. Shri Virendrakumar Shah: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Bajra grown in the State of Mysore per annum since 1961;

(b) whether a surplus stock of Bajra is lying with the Mysore State; and

(c) whether the Central Government propose to supply the surplus Bajra from Mysore to Gujarat, where there is a heavy demand?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Anandji Shinde): (a) The produc-

tion of bajra in Mysore State since 1960-61 has been as under:—

(The figures are in thousand tonnes)

1960-61	120
1961-62	100
1962-63	120
1963-64	154
1964-65	113
1965-66	85

(b) and (c) Some surplus has been declared by the State Government and has been allotted to deficit States including Gujarat. No report of further surplus lying with the Mysore State has so far been received. If any further surplus is offered by Mysore Government, the question of supplying a part or whole of it to Gujarat will be considered.

गन्ने की खेती

825. श्री रबी राय :

श्री राम लेखक याचक :

श्री बघु लिचये :

श्री मोहन प्रसाद :

श्री महाराज सिंह भारती :

श्री जार्ज करनगौड :

क्या लाख तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को पता है कि इस वर्ष पानी न मिलने के कारण गन्ने की खेती नहीं की जा सकती है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या उनके मंत्रालय ने सिचाई और विद्युत् मंत्रालय को कोई विशय उपाय प्रपनाने को कहा है ?

लाख, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रजासाहिब शिबे) : (क) चालू वर्ष में मौसम की स्थिति अनुकूल नहीं रही है और पता चला है कि प्रमुख रूप से गन्ना पैदा करने वाले क्षेत्रों विशेषतया बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश में पर्याप्त वर्षा होने के कारण बुवाई पर कुप्रभाव पड़ा है ।