

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research out of the grants-in-aid received from the Government of India gives financial assistance to Agricultural Universities after their establishment, and not to State Governments, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for establishment and development of Agricultural Universities only for specific items of development on an approved pattern of assistance.

(b) No request for Central assistance for specific items of development has yet been received from the Government of Gujarat as no Agricultural University has yet been established there. The quantum of assistance likely to be made available to Gujarat University for 5 years when established has not yet been determined.

(c) The funds are allotted for specific items of development. Universities furnish utilisation and audit certificates for the funds made available. In addition, Visiting Teams of experts are sent by the Council annually to the Universities to scrutinise proper utilisation of development funds.

(d) The Universities are established under enactments of the State Legislatures and the locations of their Headquarters are decided by the State Governments. In case the State Governments like to associate the Council in selection of site, necessary advice is given to them. The Council, through Visiting Team inspections ensure that no infructuous expenditure on developmental items is made at the selected site.

(e) As per recommendation of the Education Commission it has been accepted as a national policy to establish at least one Agricultural University per State. Based on the manpower requirements of the State, the availability of resources and the experience gained in the new concept of establishment of Agricultural Universities, the State Governments may consider the desirability of having more than one Agricultural University in their State.

Under the Agricultural University concept there is no scope for affiliated colleges. The constituent colleges of Agricultural Universities away from central campus con-

duct their own examinations and thus have almost the status of autonomous colleges with the added benefit of integration of research, teaching and extension education to make the education so imparted really effective.

#### Import of Rice

3472. SHRI P. GOPALAN :  
SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :  
SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI :

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

(a) whether Government will consider to send a team including the Centre-State representatives to explore the possibility of getting rice from abroad ;

(b) whether the Kerala Government have made such a proposal ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No such proposal has been received by Government.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Death of children due to starvation in Rajasthan

3474. SHRI D. N. PATODIA :  
SHRI N. K. SANGHI :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 100 children died of starvation/malnutrition in Jaisalmer District recently ;

(b) whether the Central Government have been informed about the circumstances leading to the death of such a large number of children ;

(c) if so, the causes for the same ; and

(d) the remedial measures since taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise,