

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Increase in Rice Production

4139. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that at a Conference of the State Food Ministers, the question of pushing up rice production was considered in detail ;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held on this issue ; and

(c) whether any specific proposals have emanated as a result of their discussion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Conference noted with satisfaction the progress made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in releasing new varieties such as 'Jaganath' and 'Pankaj' for areas with problems of waterlogging and diseases and 'Jamuna' and 'Sabarmathi' for areas which have preference for fine varieties like 'Basmati'.

The Conference stressed the need for evolving varieties resistant to tungro virus and varieties which will give more rice on hulling. The following steps have been taken on the recommendations of that Conference.

(c) (i) A new high yielding strain (IR. 20) moderately resistant to Tungro virus has been released for areas of Eastern U. P., Bihar and West Bengal where tungro virus is prevalent.

(ii) Five surveillance parties have been set up by the Government of India for making a survey of out break of diseases and pests of rice particularly Tungro virus. Two grain quality and a high yielding strains, CR. 10.5437 and CR. 1-6, with excellent grain quality and a high percentage of head rice have been recommended for release by the Central Sub-Committee for release of varieties.

Price of Good Quality Seeds

4140. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of good quality seeds as prevailing at present is unremuneratively high and is not likely to help accelerate the green revolution ;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken steps to ensure adequate supply of seeds at reasonable reasonable rates to farmers ; and

(c) what has been the price behaviour of the seeds and the causes of such increase ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) The prices of good quality of seeds are always higher than grain prices because of the much heavier investment in seed production and much greater risk. However, seed is a small input and given good quality seed, a farmer would not regard its price as high because the return on using good seeds is remunerative.

(b) At present, there is no shortage of seeds. The State Governments are responsible for seed production and distribution. Also the National Seeds Corporation has set up a chain of dealers and made available good seeds at reasonable rates throughout the country. Recently, the Tarai Development Corporation has also established a network of seeds distribution. Besides, there is a growing private trade in seeds.

(c) On account of plentiful seed production and keen competition, the prices of seeds have generally shown a downward trend.

Shortage of Small Tractors and their Manufacture

4141. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that small tractors are in short supply in the country ;

(b) if so, the types of tractors, H. P. wise—that are in great demand in the country;

(c) the categories of those which are being manufactured in the country and the extent of short fall under each category ; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to bridge the gap between demand and supply ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Zeter-2011 (20 H. P. and DT-14 B (14 H. P.) tractors.

(c) There is no indigenous production of small tractors in the country.

(d) The following schemes have been approved in principle for the manufacture of small H.P. tractors :

	Name of firm	Make and H.P.	Annual Capacity
(1)	M/s. Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd., Pinjore	Zeter-201 / 2511 (20 H. P.)	12,000
(2)	M/s. Ghaziabad Engg. Co. Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	DT-14B(14 H. P.)	10,000
(3)	Dr. R. Kymal (now Kymal Tractor and Engg. Enterprises, Hyderabad)	Guldner (15 H. P.)	2,000
(4)	M/s. Indian Agro-Machines, Bombay.	RS-09 (20 H. P.)	10,000

Certain other proposals for the manufacture of small tractors are under consideration of Government. Besides, it has been decided to import 20,000 small tractors. Import of tractors as gift from Indian relations living abroad has also been allowed to ease the supply position.

Ramakrishna Mission Request for Funds for Providing Relief to East Pak. Refugees

4142. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Ramakrishna Mission is the only voluntary organisation which is actually working for providing on-the-spot relief to the refugees who have gathered at Basirhat ;

(b) whether the Mission had written to the Central Government that their work has

suffered a set back because of shortage of funds ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to give assistance to the mission ; and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) When the Ramakrishna Mission had started relief work at Basirhat, it had approached the Central Government in May, 1970 to arrange for early release of funds.

The Central Government has so far made 'on account' advances of Rs. 89 lakhs to the State Government for meeting relief expenditure of immediate nature, including grants-in-aid to well established philanthropic organisations like the Ramakrishna Mission. Out of this amount, a sum of Rs. 2.10 lakhs has already been sanctioned by the State Government upto 4-1-1970, to the Ramakrishna Mission. This amount includes Rs. 1 lakh as the cost of rice supplied to the Ramakrishna Mission by the Food Corporation of India for distribution among the migrants from East Pakistan.

Comparative Prices of Indian and Imported Tractors

4143. SHRI M. N. REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated demand for tractors in the country and how the demand is being met ;

(b) whether the tractors imported through the State Trading Corporation on Government account without duty are being sold at prices lower than those of indigenously manufactured tractors ;

(c) in view of adverse effect on the Indian manufacture of tractors due to the sale of foreign tractors at a lower price, whether Government will ensure equality of prices of imported and Indian tractors ; and

(d) whether, with the extra amount realised on sale of imported tractors an equalization of prices, or a special farmers fund will be created which could be used to subsidise power-tillers used by small farmers?