

aqua farms cause salinity, sedimentation and health hazards, besides polluting drinking water.

Under these circumstances, may I know from the hon. Minister whether any scientific study has been conducted by the experts under the I.C.A.R. ? If so, what are the findings thereof ? If not, I would like to know whether the Government propose to conduct any in-depth study to determine the bad effects on the ecology as well as the environment of our country.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, it is a fact that a very serious situation has arisen due to the judgement of the Supreme Court. But the Supreme Court is the Supreme Court. So, we have to abide by their judgement. We are trying to have some type of legislation. If the House so agrees, it can, both protect the ecology as well as the farmers' rights. We are thinking about it.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, my question is, whether any study has been conducted under the I.C.A.R. about the bad effects on the ecology and the environment of our country.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, the I.C.A.R., as a whole, has not conducted it, but it has done it partly. Some other organisations have done it and based on that the Supreme Court has given its judgement.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, we all know that a great damage has been done to the ecology of our coastal belts due to the setting up of these aquaculture farms. May I know from the hon. Minister whether there are any concrete plans or proposals with the Government to rectify the ecological damage already done to the land ? If so, what are the proposals ? Will the hon. Minister spell out the concrete proposals ?

12.00 hrs.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, the matter is before the Supreme Court for review. I cannot give him the details. Let them pass orders. Only then I can say something.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : But do you have any plan to rectify the ecological damage ?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I will tell you that the aquaculture business which will be carried on in future, will take into account the ecology first and then other things.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

New Varieties of Cash Crops

*328. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Agriculture Research Institute has developed some new varieties of cash crop seed recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States where the new seeds are likely to be used; and

(d) the results likely to be achieved therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Cotton variety — 'Pusa B-6' has been identified for late sown conditions in Punjab, Haryana, Northern Rajasthan and Western Uttar Pradesh.

Grape hybrid 'Pusa Navrang' has been developed for Northern India. It is good for making juice and coloured wine.

Bhindi variety 'Okra A-4' a yellow vein mosaic virus resistant variety has been released for the whole country.

Four varieties of Gladioli namely Neelam, Suryakiran, Dhanwantri and Sangervani and five varieties of roses namely Mother Teresa, Nehru Centenary, Dr. S.S. Bhatnagar, Lahar and Chitra have been released recently.

Additionally a wide choice of improved varieties/hybrids of different cash crops have been developed and released for general cultivation by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research through its Institutes spread all over the country.

(d) The above varieties will help in increasing productivity of these crops resulting into higher profitability to the farmers.

[Translation]

Productivity Rate of Foodgrains

*329. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified the areas where productivity rate of foodgrains is below than that at the national level;

(b) if so, the names of such areas along with the rates of productivity of wheat, rice, pulses, oilseeds and other foodgrains there; and

(c) the details of schemes formulated/proposed to be formulated by the Government on priority basis to raise productivity level of the foodgrains in the said areas ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) A statement giving the average productivity for triennium ending