

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these varieties of wheat are likely to be supplied to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Intensive research efforts are under way to develop superior high yielding wheat cultivars. A three pronged approach is being applied in wheat breeding which includes:

- (i) Development of superior genotypes with improved yield attributing character.
- (ii) Development of hybrid wheat.
- (iii) Application of molecular biology and marker aided selection for combining quality traits with high yield.

(c) Crop improvement for desired traits like higher yield and resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses is a continuous process. Such new improved varieties are released every year. However, a quantum jump is expected in the next 5-10 years.

Agricultural Research

*319. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides funds to State Governments for their agricultural research institutions;

(b) if so, the total fund provided during the 8th Five Year Plan; and

(c) the achievements made by such institutions during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The approximate total funds allocated during 8th Five Year Plan by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to Centres of All India Co-ordinated Research Project (AICRPs) and Project Directorates (PDs) in State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and few other Research Centres under States Governments were Rs. 353.84 crore.

(c) These institutions are Centres of AICRPs and PDs located in SAUs and few other Centres in the States.

As important components of National Agricultural Research System, they make significant contribution in National efforts on Varietal/Breed Improvement and technology Development Programme and also support in multi-locational testing.

Several high yielding and promising varieties and hybrids were evolved and released during this period. These varieties are for food crops, fodder crops, pulses, oilseeds, commercial crops, horticultural crops (fruits, vegetables, plantation crops, mushrooms, flowers). The techniques have been developed for Integrated Pest Management, Integrated Nutrient Management, Input Use Efficiency, Soil and Water Management, Cropping Systems including Crop Rotations, Post Harvest Technology, Small Farm Implements and Tools. High yielding breeds of cattle, poultry, sheep, goat and other livestock etc. have also been evolved.

The consolidated achievements of National Varietal/Breed Improvement and Technology Development Programmes including the achievements of Centres of AICRPs located at SAUs are included in the Annual Reports of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) and laid in both Houses of Parliament every year.

Permanent Seat in UN Security Council

*320. SHRI VAIKO :
SHRI KAMAL NATH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has almost lost its chances of getting a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council because of its recent Nuclear tests;

(b) the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Discussions on Security Council restructuring are continuing in the Open Ended Working Group of the UN General Assembly. India's candidature for permanent membership in any expansion of the UN Security Council remains on the table.