

Wheat Production

4178. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance has been provided or proposed to be provided by the Union Government for the successful implementation of the comprehensive plan worked out by scientists to raise the wheat production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) to raise the wheat production in the country new wheat varieties and production technologies are being evolved by Indian Council of Agricultural Research/State Agricultural Universities Research System. Various Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Crop Production Oriented Programmes like Integrated Cereals Development Programmes in Wheat/Rice/Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Wheat, ICDP-Rice & ICDP-Coarse-Cereals) and Seed Minikits Programme of Wheat are being implemented in different States for the transfer of the technology. Through these schemes assistance is being provided to the farmers so as to motivate them to adopt the improved production technologies.

Allocation of funds, as central share, for implementation of the above programmes during 1998-99 are as under:

Programmes	Allocation as GOI share (Rs. In crores)
1. ICDP-Wheat.	25.00
2. ICDP-Rice.	46.00
3. ICDP-Coarse Cereals.	25.03
4. Seed Minikit Programme of Wheat	3.00

[Translation]

"Sankat Chawal"

4179. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Agriculture Research Institute has under taken a research work on the development of "Sankat Chawal";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the regions where these are grown in the country, State-wise, alongwith its effect on increasing the production of paddy in these regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No Sir. Indian Agricultural Research Institute is not doing any research on 'Sankat Chawal'. However, it is engaged in research on hybrid rice (known as 'Sankar Chawal' in Hindi) with a major thrust on development of basmati rice hybrids.

(b) Initially, the research efforts were exclusively devoted to development of parental lines for the development of hybrids. As a result the Institute has developed two cytoplasmic male sterile lines of basmati (Pusa 3A and Pusa 4A) and one male sterile line of non-basmati rice (Pusa 5A). Simultaneously some restorer lines have also been developed. During 1997, four basmati hybrids were tested in national co-ordinated trial for the first time. These hybrid would require testing for two more years as per normal procedure for assessing their farm worthiness. Seven non-basmati rice hybrids developed by the Institute were tested in the national trial during 1997. During 1998, 14 old and new hybrids are being tested in the national trials.

(c) The question does not arise.

[English]

Construction of Dam

4180. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to construct a Dam over Ghaghar river near Chandigarh to store drinking water for neighbouring States of Punjab, Haryana and Union Territory of Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the work on the dam is likely to commence?