

Capital Region Planning Board Act, 1985. The functions of the Board inter alia include preparation of a Plan for National Capital Region and to coordinate the enforcement and implementation of the plan by the participating States and the Union Territory of Delhi. The Board will also arrange for and oversee the financing of selected development programmes in the region through Central and State Plan Funds. The functions of the Board are of continuous nature. Under the scheme of the Act, the Board is not required to submit any final report or recommendations to the Government.

[*Translation*]

Radio Station at Almora

*278. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees appointed so far in the Radio Station being set up at Almora in Uttar Pradesh ; and

(b) the time by which production of programmes and regular broadcast thereof from the studio of this Radio Station will start ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) None is in position yet.

(b) According to the present indication, this is likely by September, 1985.

[*English*]

New Rice Strain Developed by CRRI,
Cuttack

*279. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister

of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Rice Research Institute at Cuttack has developed a new rice strain that matures within 70 days ;

(b) if so, whether this strain would be released during the coming kharif season ; and

(c) whether similar research claims made earlier have been justified by actual yields in the fields ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, has developed a new rice strain called 'Sattari' which matures in 70-75 days.

(b) The strain was released by Government of Orissa in 1980 and by the Central Variety Release Committee in 1983.

(c) Yes, Sir. This variety when direct seeded in Uplands with timely weeding and application of 40-50 Kg. Nitrogen per hectare in two equal splits at 15 and 30 days after seeding, gave about two tonnes per hectare of paddy in farmers' fields. The variety gained wide acceptance in Rainfed Uplands, particularly in Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Tamil Nadu.

The following are other promising upland varieties maturing in 90-95 days. These have been developed and released for different States as indicated against each.

Name (s) of Variety	State for which recommended
Poorva, Pritibha	Madhya Pradesh
Tuljapur-1	Maharashtra
Culture 1, Rudra, Pallavi, Keshari and Subhadra	Orissa
Prasad, Narendra-1	Uttar Pradesh
MDU-1	Tamil Nadu

Amount Sanctioned for Rural Water Supply in West Bengal

*280. PROF. MONORANJAN HALDER : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount sanctioned by Central Government with regard to the rural water supply for West Bengal for the years 1983-1984 ; and

(b) the total amount which was not utilised and refunded by the State Government during the aforesaid period ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) Central grants totalling Rupees 59.72 crores under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and Incentive Scheme were released to the Government of West Bengal during the period 1980-81 to 1984-85.

(b) The amount not utilised out of the Central grants released yearwise is as follows :—

1980-81	—	Rs. 2.22 crores
1981-82	—	Rs. 0.53 crores
1982-83	—	Nil
1983-84	—	Rs. 8.72 crores

The un-utilised amount in a particular year is allowed to be carried forward and is used in subsequent year. This amount therefore does not need to be refunded.

Number of Plantation Workers in the Country

*281. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of plantation workers in the country ;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce legislation for the welfare of the plantation workers ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) The average employment in plantations submitting returns in different States during 1983 is 8,26,003 (provisional).

(b) and (c) : There is already Plantation Labour Act, 1951, which deals with the welfare and safety of the plantation workers. The Act was amended in 1981 with a view to improve medical, social and welfare benefits to the plantation labour. There is no further legislative proposal with the Government in this regard.