

the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The Ministry of Commerce who is concerned with trade in pepper have taken a decision to set-up a Spices Board, in which the existing Cardamom Board and the Spices Export Promotion Council will be merged. This would take care of international trade.

(b) The Planning Commission have yet to consider and convey their approval for setting up the proposed National Research Centre for Spices as submitted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Thereafter, the details will be finalised.

Per Hectare Yield of Linseed

*818. SHRI SRIHARI RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether yield per hectare for linseed dropped to 167 Kg. in 1979-80 from 275 kg/hectare in 1949-50 and if so, reasons for decline in performance ;

(b) the number of new and high yielding varieties of linseed released so far and the claims of expected yields therefrom ; and

(c) whether Government have any plans to revamp the Agricultural Research and Development Wing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) All India per hectare yield of linseed during the year 1949-50 was 275 Kgs. which went down to 167 Kgs. during 1979-80, which was a drought year. During 1983-84, the All India per hectare yield of linseed reached to a level of 300 Kgs.

(b) 21 improved varieties of linseed have been recommended by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for

different regions and agro-climatic conditions of the country with yield potential ranging from 500 to 1500 Kgs. per hectare.

(c) Yes, Sir. The research on linseed is being intensified to evolve high yielding, short duration, rust and wilt resistant varieties. Improved package of practices is popularised through the State Departments of Agriculture. It is proposed to take up development programme on linseed crop under the National Oilseeds Development Project during 1985-86.

[Translation]

Bank Loan Given to Youths Under TRYSEM

*819. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of youths in Rajasthan who have been given bank loans for setting up their business after their training under the TRYSEM (Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment) programme during the last three years . and

(b) the target fixed in this regard for the whole country for Seventy Five Year Plan and for Rajasthan during 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) and (b) : Under the scheme of Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), the youth undergoing training may be given a tool kit costing upto Rs. 500. The trained youth are eligible for subsidy and bank loans, as per the norms under the Integrated Rural Development Programme, depending upon the economically viable schemes taken up by the trained youth for self-employment. Therefore, the self-employed youth includes those who have

been given tool Kits costing up to Rs. 500 and/or those who have been given subsidy and loan.

The number of such youth during the last three years in Rajasthan is given below :

Year	Number of self-employed youth
1982-83	18,818
1983-84	12,477
1984-85 (upto February, 1985)	7,779
TOTAL :	36,074

As the Seventh Plan has not been finalised so far, the targets for Seventh Plan for the country cannot be indicated now. For 1985-86 Government of Rajasthan has fixed a target of 20,000 youths for training under TRYSEM

[English]

Prices of Fertilizers

*820. PROF. BIMAL KANTI GHOSH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the retail price of fertilizers that the farmer in India has to pay, is the highest as compared to the price paid by the farmers in other countries;

(b) to what extent the prices of fertilizers have been increased during the past three years ;

(c) the reasons for keeping the price of fertilizers so high ; and

(d) whether Government have any proposals to bring down the prices of fertilizers to a level which the farmer can afford ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The retail prices of fertilisers which the Indian

farmer has to pay are not the highest in the world. They are at reasonable levels, which allow a reasonable return to the farmer taking into account the market conditions. The Government of India substantially subsidised fertiliser use to the extent of over Rs 1900 crores in 1984-85, so that fertiliser prices could be held at such reasonable levels.

(b) Fertiliser prices have not been increased during the last three years. In fact, the prices were reduced by 7½% with effect from 29.6.83.

(c) The prices of fertilisers are not considered to be so high.

(d) There is no proposal at present to further bring down the prices of fertilisers, as they are already heavily subsidised.

Transport Problem in Metropolitan Cities

*820-A. SHRI YASHWANT RAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether with the ever-growing population and increasing traffic on roads, Government have made any assessment with regard to the requirements to tackle the growing transport problem in the metropolitan cities ; and