

represented that imports of sizeable quantities be allowed to meet the demand; and

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken to make the aluminium metal available to the secondary manufacturers/users in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) to (c) At present the indigenous production of aluminium does not fully meet the demand. Therefore, in addition to imports under REP, imports to the extent of 50,000 tonnes have been authorised through MMTC to bridge the gap between demand and supply during 1986-87. Thus, adequate availability of aluminium for downstream users has been ensured. With National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) going into production in 1987-88, it is expected that availability of the metal would in fact exceed the demand.

New wheat varieties

*82. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTA-
NAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICUL-
TURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of wheat varieties released by the Directorate of Wheat Project during the last ten years and the area under cultivation of these varieties at present in the country;

(b) whether a majority of these new varieties have failed in the fields and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are extending financial assistance to the agricultural scientists;

(d) if so, the details regarding the financial assistance given so far; and

(e) the steps being taken to improve the production of wheat through better varieties of wheat ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICUL-
TURE (DR. G. S. DHILLON) : (a)

Fifty six wheat varieties have been released under the All India Coordinated wheat Improvement Project during the last 10 years (1976-1985).

More than 75% of the total area under wheat in the country is presently occupied under these high yielding varieties.

(b) No, Sir. A large number of these varieties are popular in different wheat growing regions. However, new varieties take time to expand in acreage.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The total funds allocated during the V and VI plans under the All India Coordinated Wheat Improvement Project centres were Rs. 398 lakhs.

(e) The following steps are being taken to improve the production of wheat :—

- (i) Maximisation of productivity in irrigated areas.
- (ii) Timely, easy and adequate supply of agricultural inputs.
- (iii) Greater attention to dryland farming.
- (iv) Production and distribution of sufficient quantities of certified seeds.
- (v) Adoption of integrated plant protection measures.
- (vi) Assuring remunerative prices to the growers.

Import of captive power plants by National Fertilizers Limited

*84. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA
NARASIMHARAJA WADI-
YAR :

SHRI KRISHNA SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Fertilizer Limited proposes to import two captive power plants;

(b) if so, at what cost and from which country such captive power plants are proposed to be imported; and

(c) whether such plants are not available indigenously and if these are available, the reasons for resorting to import?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G. S. DHILLON) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Steam Generator Packages are being imported from Japan and Turbo Generator Packages from Austria at a total price of about Rs. 46.96 crores and about Rs. 33.43 crores, excluding customs duties, respectively.

(c) Though the necessary plant and machinery is available indigenously, Government permitted the import thereof keeping in view the quicker delivery schedules and the lower prices of the foreign vendors.

Merger of Song and Drama Division

*86. SHRI DINESH SINGH :
PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to merge the Song and Drama Division with the Directorate of Field Publicity; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Implementation of IRDP

*90. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA :
SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the concurrent evaluation of the major poverty alleviation programmes of Integrated Rural Development has pointed out a number of shortcomings in the implementation of the programmes;

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken/proposed in this regard;

(c) the extent to which shortcomings in the implementation of the programme have been corrected; and

(d) the percentage of the old beneficiaries who have crossed the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G. S. DHILLON) : (a) The concurrent evaluation of Integrated Rural Development Programme has been started by Government of India since October, 1985. The main findings on monthly basis of the surveys upto July, 1986 have been brought out. A consolidated report for 9 months (October, 1985 to June, 1986) has also been brought out.

The main findings for the period October, 1985 to June, 1986 show that poorest of the poor have predominant coverage as compared to other groups of the poor. At the national level, as per records, 98% eligible families had annual income between Rs. 1—Rs. 3500. Only 1% families were having income between Rs. 3501 to Rs. 4800. On the basis of the assessment of annual income of the family at the time of the assistance, by the investigator, in about 7% cases, the annual income of the family was more than Rs. 4800, which is the cut-off line for the purpose of identification. Regarding the mode of selection, about 58% beneficiaries were selected in