

fair average quality in Kerala and Lakshadweep where the ruling prices have since increased to around Rs. 1,300 per quintal. In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, however, purchase operations are in progress as the market price is yet to stabilise at the indicative price level.

#### Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour

\*263. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether release and rehabilitation of bonded labour in the country is one of the items of the 20 Point Programme;

(b) whether this programme is being implemented in its full spirit; and

(c) the steps being taken for the immediate implementation of the programme and to get the bonded labour released and rehabilitated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The responsibility of identification and release of bonded labour lies with the State Governments. The Central Government gives a matching grant for rehabilitation on a 50:50 basis. The rehabilitation subsidy has been increased from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 6,250 per bonded labour with effect from 1-2-1986.

#### Pact on Bio-Fertilizers with FAO

\*264. DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a pact on bio-fertilizers has been entered into with the Food and Agriculture Organisation; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the specific areas in which the pact will help;

(c) since when research on bio-fertilizers has been going on in the country and the number of scientists in the Indian Council

of Agricultural Research/Agricultural Universities engaged in the same; and

(d) the reasons for signing the pact in view of the claims of development and breakthrough by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G.S. DHILLAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Project, at an estimated expenditure of US \$772,000, will help in large scale production of bio-fertilizers, development of infrastructure for quality control and training of resource personnel.

(c) Organised research on bio-fertilizers in the country began in 1961. About sixty scientists in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and State Agricultural Universities are engaged in bio-fertilizers research.

(d) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has developed location and crop specific efficient strains of micro-organisms. This project will assist in establishing 'Culture Banks' of efficient strains and their large scale multiplication for use by the farmers in the country.

#### Revision of Cost of Ammonium Sulphate Caprolactum Project, Cochin

2334. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether estimated cost of setting up Ammonium Sulphate Caprolactum Project at Cochin by the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited has been revised;

(b) if so, the details of earlier and revised costs;

(c) the reasons for the delay in initiating work on the project; and

(d) whether Union Government have approved the revised estimated cost ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Ammonium Sulphate Caprolactam Project being set up at Udyogmandal by the Ferti-