

whole is being coordinated by the Cabinet Secretary and the Prime Minister's Secretariat. At the Cabinet level, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Policy and Coordination monitors and coordinates the programme.

A Co-ordination Committee has been constituted in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to oversee implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the 20 Point Programme in the rural development sector.

New Variety of Sweet Jowar

*479. SHRI P. GANGADEB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new variety of sweet jowar has been developed to increase sugar production in the country;

(b) if so, whether any experiments have been carried out by the scientists of the Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow in this regard; and

(c) if so, result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). The Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research had taken up some preliminary research on some of the sweet sorghum varieties imported from the United States of the varieties tried "Aroma" proved to be the best.

The agronomic requirements of the sweet sorghum crop are being worked out. Control measures for diseases like leaf and stalk borer which affect this crop are being formulated. It is premature to assess the potential value of sweet sorghum variety for increasing sugar production.

New Wheat Strain

*480. SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural research institutes in the country have achieved a break-through in evolving a new wheat strain that can be grown in the rice growing areas;

(b) whether though the country has achieved a world record of doubling the production in wheat, the same success could not be achieved in paddy cultivation; and

(c) if so, nature of steps proposed to achieve the twin objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Wheat cultivation is spreading in the traditional rice growing areas now. The variety 'Sonalika' has been cultivated commercially in the traditional rice growing areas in West Bengal, Assam, Orissa, Bihar, U.P. and several other States. One more variety 'Janak' was released for the entire eastern region in 1974 and is now becoming popular with the farmers. In the All-India Wheat Research Workshop held at Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya Kalyani (West Bengal) in August, 1975, two more new varieties viz. 'HP-1102' & 'HP-262' have been identified for pre-release trials of eastern India. For delayed sowings in Central India, another variety called 'Shera' was released.

(b) It is true that the same success in paddy cultivation has not so far been achieved as compared to wheat cultivation.

(c) Number of steps are being taken there. The 20-Point Programme as a development of high yielding rice varieties adapted to varying agro-ecological situations, raising Community