

and should be treated like an area development project and all possible aspects should be looked into in detail before a final view can be taken in regard to this proposal. The Pre-Investment Survey of Fishing Harbours Project undertook the Survey and Investigation in 1975 and the plans and estimates have been got ready involving a total cost of nearly Rs. 5.00 crores. The Government of Maharashtra was requested to indicate the details of area development to ascertain how far the fishing harbour would fit into the area development programmes. Details regarding provision of facilities in handling large cargo vessels, provision of road and rail links, supply of power and water and development of a township in the area with civic facilities were called for. The detailed reply from the State Government is awaited. After a reply from the Maharashtra Government is received, the project will be examined from the cost benefit ratio.

**Aid to Ailing/Indigent Writers,
Artists and Scholars**

*278. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have earmarked any fund for giving aid to the ailing/indigent writers, scholars and artists, or life pensions to those artists who are no longer in a position to earn their livelihood; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is a scheme of "financial assistance to persons distinguished in letters, arts and such other walks of life who may be in indigent circumstances and their dependents". Those

whose monthly income does not exceed Rs. 400 and are above 58 years, are eligible for assistance. The maximum allowance payable under the scheme is Rs. 200 p.m. The scheme is circulated to the State Governments/ Union Territories Administrations for recommending cases for assistance under the scheme. Expenditure is shared between the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 2:1 respectively. The entire expenditure in respect of Union Territories is borne by the Government of India.

During 1975-76, the first year of the operation of the scheme, a sum of Rs. 1,83,675 was sanctioned to 6 States and 2 Union Territories. There is a budget provision of Rs. 3.00 lakhs for assistance during 1976-77.

New Wheat Variety

*279 SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new hybrid, high yielding wheat variety 'macs-9' has been released for cultivation to the farmers recently;

(b) if so, its yield per hectare;

(c) whether it has more advantages than other varieties; and

(d) if so, facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. This durum wheat variety was produced by the Maharashtra Association for Cultivation of Science, Poona. Based on the results of tests conducted over a period of four years the 12th All India Wheat Research Workers' Workshop held at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi in September, 1973 recommended this variety for cultivation under low