

(c) if so, the aspects studied and decision arrived at ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Area under Hybrid cotton seed variety H. 4 and self-sufficiency in cotton

*1611. SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHTRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the area under the new hybrid cotton seed variety H 4 ; and

(b) the period during which self-sufficiency in all categories of cotton except the extra-long staple cotton is expected to be achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) : (a) During 1970-71, a total area of about 24,800 hectares was raised under the Commercial Crop of Hybrid-4 Cotton.

(b) It is expected that by 1973-74 it would be possible to create adequate potential for raising production of cotton stapling upto 1-3/16" to the level of meeting the demand in full.

Ragi cultivation in States

*1612. SHRI K. MALLANNA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to improve Ragi cultivation in Mysore State ;

(b) whether cultivation of Ragi has declined in the country though it is a poor man's diet ; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

Hindustan Steel Ltd. agreement with U. S. and U. S. S. R.

*1613. SHRI N. K. SANGHI :
SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Statesman, dated the 2nd July, 1971 that two agreements signed by the Hindustan Steel Ltd. with an American and a Soviet firm place India in a less favourable position than the foreign partners ;

(b) if so, the details of the agreements and the points of disadvantages to which the country has been exposed financially ;

(c) whether any amendment to the terms of agreements is envisaged by Government so as to remove disadvantages ; and

(d) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL MINES (SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (1) Under the agreement of Hindustan Steel Ltd. with the United Engineering & Foundry and Company of the USA, the Central Engineering and Design Bureau of Hindustan Steel Limited will acquire design and manufacturing know-how of rolling mills equipment. Under the agreement between Tiazpromexport of Soviet Union and Hindustan Steel Limited, the former will render technical assistance in developing the Central Engineering & Design Bureau of Hindustan Steel Limited for designing iron and steel enterprises.

(2) The agreement with the United Engineering & Foundry Company of USA provides for the acquisition by Hindustan Steel Ltd. of technical know-how relating to rolling mills Equipment. It also provides that Hindustan Steel Limited will have a licence to use the know-how in the design of rolling mills and accessories for manufacture in its own plants or in the plants of others in India and in United's own plants in the USA and its territories.

(3) The agreement with Tiazpromexport provides that they would prepare and hand over to Hindustan Steel Ltd. the guiding materials and norms for technological designing of the main metallurgical processes such as coke ovens, by-product and