

(d) The proposals of the State Government are under consideration.

Agricultural Service Recruitment Board

*411. SHRI DHARAMVIR VASISHT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which Agricultural Services Recruitment Board was constituted and on whose advice;

(b) the functions of the Board;

(c) the method of assessing the merits of the agricultural scientists together with the number of officers selected during the last three years; and

(d) whether selections of the Board were invariably accepted by the Government, and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) The Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board was set up as a result of the decision of the Government of India on the recommendations of a group of Ministers appointed by the Central Cabinet under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Agriculture, the late Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed. The Board came into existence on the 7th December, 1973.

(b) The functions of the Board, which is an independent recruiting Agency for the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, are:—

(i) to make recruitment to posts in the Agricultural Research Service and to such other posts and services as may be specified by the President of the Council from time to time;

(ii) to render such other assistance to the Council in personnel matters including promotion, as

may be required by the President; and

(iii) to advise the Council in disciplinary matters relating to personnel recruited/appointed either by the Council itself or in consultation with the Board.

(c) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the table of the House.

(d) Yes, Sir. Recommendations of the Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board have been accepted by the President of I.C.A.R., who is the Controlling Authority for Agricultural Research Service.

Statement

Appointments to the Agricultural Research Service are made by—

(a) direct recruitment to Grade S-1 of the Service in the scale of Rs. 700—1300 through open competitive examination;

(b) Lateral entry through advertisement and interview; and

(c) promotion on the basis of merit, irrespective of occurrence of vacancies through a system of five-yearly assessment of performance of the existing scientists.

2. The Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board have held two competitive examinations so far and have selected 897 scientists for Grade S-1 of the Service. The Board have also selected 510 scientists for various higher grades of the Service by advertisement and interview. As these selections were made post by post, only the names of the scientists who were found most suitable were recommended for appointment to the Council by the Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board.

3. As regards appointments by promotion, irrespective of occurrence of vacancies, the Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board have taken up the

first five-yearly assessment of all eligible scientists of the Service. So far, the Board have recommended promotion of about 450 scientists and are considering the case of several hundred more scientists. The assessment is being done through Committees of eminent scientists belonging to various disciplines. Emphasis in the assessment is being laid on the contributions and achievements of the individual in relation to the requirements of the job and the duties assigned to the post for which he was recruited. The documents which are taken into consideration while making the assessment are—

(i) Five-year Assessment proforma filled by the concerned scientists and reviewed by the senior scientist under whom he worked;

(ii) Research Project File maintained by the scientist;

(iii) Bio-data and career information of the scientists; and

(iv) Confidential Character Rolls for the past five years.

Opportunity is also given to the scientist to appear before the Assessment Committee for a personal discussion if he so desires. The discussion is not of a routine or formal type of interview to judge the theoretical knowledge and academic calibre of tunity to him to project his work but is intended to provide an opportunity to the scientist, and achievements during the period under assessment as well as to clarify and elaborate any specific aspect of his work.

Increase in number of Seats in Engineering College in Maharashtra

*412. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a big increase in the number of students passing

Inter Science and XII standard. Exams. in Maharashtra during 1977-78;

(b) whether the sanctioned strength of seats in Engineering Colleges of Maharashtra is insufficient to accommodate the increased demand; and

(c) what decision Government have taken on the proposal by the Maharashtra State Government to increase the number of seats in Engineering Colleges?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter was discussed with the State Government to whom certain suggestions were made. In the light of these discussions, the State Government is working out the details of increasing the intake for this year.

Crop Rotation

*413. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Scientists of Haryana Agricultural University are of the view that continuous crop rotation impairs the soil fertility if balanced fertilisation is not done; and

(b) if so, facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the trials conducted by the Scientists of Haryana Agricultural University, in plots which received Nitrogen and Potassium only, wheat grain yield continued to show a downward trend, from 29.3 q per ha in 1971-72 to 13.4 q per ha in 1975-76. In plots which received the three major nutrients namely Nitrogen, Potassium and Phosphorus, the yields were above 32.3 q/ha. So also application of Zinc sulphate at 25 Kg per ha, in