

(c) whether Government are aware that Australia has made very successful experiments in "seeding" clouds by which rainfall increased 24 per cent higher than the adjoining "unseeded" wheat growing region in Victoria; and

(d) whether Government are planning to come to an agreement with Australia for having technical know-how on this score

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The experiments indicated an increase of 20 per cent of rain or "seeded" days

(c) The Australian experiments showed varying results at different places

(d) No, Sir The Australian technique of cloud seeding is not considered suitable for the Indian regions.

Improved Variety of Quick-Yielding Wheat Seeds

*1079 Shri Madhu Limaye :
Shri S. M. Banerjee :
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia :
Shri George Fernandes

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Agricultural Research Institute has produced an improved variety of quick-yielding wheat seeds,

(b) whether the new seeds will be made available to the farmers for sowing in the next rabi season,

(c) if so the total targeted area under the new seeds, and

(d) the price at which the new seeds will be sold to the farmers?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Anna-sahib Shinde): (a) Yes The Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, has selected a high and quick-yielding wheat variety named Sonora 64 from among the dwarf material

received from Mexico. This variety matures in 90—120 days depending upon the locations and time of sowing. The red colour of the Sonora 64 has now been changed through the technique of algeny (transmutation of genes through radiations). This new variety has been named as Sharbati Sonora. It has bold amber grains and 2a per cent more protein than the Parent variety

(b) Small quantities of seeds of Sharbati Sonora will be available for distribution among farmers during rabi this year Adequate quantities of seeds of Sonora 64 are available.

(c) Seeds may be available for planting over 200,000 acres with Sonora 64 and about 1000 acres with Sharbati Sonora.

(d) The price of seeds is fixed by the different State Departments of Agriculture in the respective territories.

International Tourist Year

1080. Shri Marandi: Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Press Reports that the well meaning plans drawn for the International Tourist Year have come to an end before the half-year is out,

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto,

(c) whether the foreign tourists have shown dissatisfaction about the arrangements made by Government, and

(d) if so, the steps taken to improve the facilities to the tourists?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) and (b) A Press Report of this nature has come to the notice of Government, but Government do not accept the Report as correct.

(c) No, Sir. Generally speaking, foreign tourists have expressed no dissatisfaction with International Tourist Year arrangements.