

Quick yielding Variety of Wheat Seeds

*179. **Shri N. S. Sharma:**
Shri Sharda Nand:
Shri A. E. Vajpayee:
Shri Brij Eshwan Lal:
Shri R. K. Birla:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Agricultural Research Institute has succeeded in producing a quick-yielding variety of wheat seeds;

(b) if so, the steps taken to popularise these seeds and the States which will be covered by these seeds; and

(c) the extent to which food production will be increased by this process?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) Yes. The Indian Agricultural Research Institute has selected a dwarf variety from Mexico named, Sonora 64, for being cultivated under late-sown conditions. This variety matures in 90-120 days depending upon the locations and the time of sowing. The original variety had red grain colour but this has now been changed by automic radiations and a new variety, named Sharbati Sonora, with bold amber grains and 25 per cent more protein than the parent variety has been developed.

(b) Seeds of Sonora 64 were imported in 1965 and 1966 from Mexico for multiplication and a large quantity is now available in the country. Under the National Demonstrations programme, the usefulness of this variety for multiple cropping is proposed to be demonstrated all over the country.

Seeds of the new variety, Sharbati Sonora, developed at the I.A.R.I., are also being multiplied in North India during rabi and in the Nilgiri Hills during Kharif. The release of this variety has been recently approved

by the Central Variety Release Committee.

(c) It is difficult to assess precisely the impact of these quick yielding varieties on total production. It can only be said at this stage that these varieties make crop rotations, such as, rice-wheat, sugarcane-wheat, potato-wheat, cotton-wheat, etc. readily possible. Being an early variety, it can safely be grown under high fertility conditions in the eastern part of U.P., Bihar, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Orissa.

Development of Minor Ports in Kerala

*180. **Shri Vasudevan Nair:**
Shri C. Janardhanan:
Shri P. C. Adichan:
Shri E. K. Nayanar:
Shri Umanath:
Shri P. Gopalan:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri F. Ramamurti:
Shri K. M. Abraham:
Shrimati Susela Gopalan:

Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government have sent any scheme for the development of minor ports in the State during the Fourth Plan;

(b) if so, the names of the ports to be developed;

(c) the main features thereof; and

(d) the estimated cost thereof and the financial assistance proposed to be rendered by the Central Government?

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. E. V. Rao): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-433/67].

Rice position in India

769. **Shri Ram Kishan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the latest rice position in the country;