

(c) to (e). In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, an area of 1593 ha. is under oil palm cultivation. On account of ecological reasons, further plantations have not been raised.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister in which States does this area of 5928/ of oil palm cultivation come. What are the prospects of oil palm cultivation? What are the facilities the Government extended for this cultivation?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Sir, the area under palm oil cultivation in Kerala under Oil Palm (India) Limited is 3,705 hectares and in Andaman and Nicobar Islands under the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest Plantation and development Corporation Ltd. is 1,593 hectares, The total area under palm oil cultivation in 5,298 hectares.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : What are the prospects and what are the facilities which are being extended by the Government, you have not answered that part of the question.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Sir, about the facilities that are going to be given to the farmers, the Working Group that was set up has made certain suggestions. These suggestions are under examination at present. We are working on it that the farmers must be given something because the plantation takes four to five years to yield. For that purpose, we have to provide some facilities but that has not yet been finalised. The suggestions are there that we should give subsidy. The Report has suggested that we should give as much as possible, otherwise it is not possible for the farmers to grow because they will have to wait for some time. The yield at this stage I think will be good and the farmers will be getting sufficient profit later on.

SHRI A. CHARLES: Sir, a large quantity of the palm oil is being imported and it will be in the interest of the country that palm oil cultivation is encouraged. Recently, along

with a group of M.Ps., I have been to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. We had actually visited the palm oil cultivation project. The Lt. Governor has appealed that the whole project originally proposed by the Government of India may be sanctioned. Unfortunately, about 500 hectares of land was left which was cleared and for which seedlings were also there. When they were about to be planted, some direction was given by the Government of India that due to ecological reasons, further cultivation need not be proceeded with. Eighty-five per cent of the total land of all the 300 islands is forest land and only six per cent will be deforested for this cultivation. So, it would be very much doubtful whether there will be any ecological problem. I would plead with the hon. Minister that he may look into this personally and see that clearance is given for the pending five hundred hectared of land which has already been cleared and for which once the Government of India has given the sanction. this is a national problem and I would appeal to the hon. Minister to look into this.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Sir, as the hon. Member himself has said, it was the ecological problem that has come in the way and, therefor, the project has not been sanctioned. I do not know what the Department of Environment and Forests will decide ultimately. So far as our Ministry is concerned, we had agreed to this proposal originally but that Ministry did not agree. You know, Sir, that today the environmental importance is very much there. We cannot override them or outright reject their opinion.

[*Translation*]

New Varieties of Bajra Seeds

*193. **SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the new varieties of bajra seeds developed by National Seeds Corporation, State Seed Corporation, Agricultural Universities, various units of ICAR and by Central Arid Zone Research Institute, jodhpur;

(b) the benefits of these varieties and the time by which the crops grown by using these varieties are ready for harvesting;

(c) whether any variety of bajra developed is suitable for Thar Desert and can give good yield within 60 days even with out sufficient rainfall; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) to (d). A statement is give below:-

STATEMENT

New Varieties of Bajra Seeds

(a) Sir, It is the function of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and associ-

ated research organisations to evolve and bred new varieties of Bajra and the National and State Seed Corporations are basically engaged in multiplying them. Details of the nine varieties and 16 hybrids developed during the period 1981- 87 by ICAR Institutes and State Agricultural Universities are given in the Annexure below.

(b) The promising varieties and hybrids have a maturity duration of 70 to 100 days. Their benefits include high grain yield and other specific desirable traits such as resistance to diseases and pests.

(c) and (d). Bajra varieties/hybrids such as Pusa 23, MH 123, MBH 110 RCB-2, MH 169 and MH 143 with a maturity range of 70-80 days have been developed for Rajasthan. They are high yielding and drought resistant varieties/hybrids. Central Arid Zone Research Institute at Jodhpur is testing a particularly promising variety (CZES-2) which matures in 70 to 75 days.

ANNEXURE

Varieties/hybrids developed by ICAR Institutes and Agricultural Universities during the period 1981-87

<i>Name of Institution</i>	<i>Varieties/hybrids</i>
A. Agricultural Universities	
1. Gujarat Agricultural University, Jamnagar.	GHB-27 GHB-30, GHB-32
2. Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar	HHB-45, HHB-50, HC-4
3. Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.	PHB 47, PSB-8, PSB-15
4. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	X 4 (COH-2), X 5 (UCH-9) Co.6
5. Rajasthan Agricultural University, Durgapura.	RCB-2

<i>Name of Institution</i>	<i>Varieties/hybrids</i>
6. Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri.	RHR-1
<i>B. ICAR, Research Institutes</i>	
7. Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi	Pusa 46 (M46) Pusa 763 (BD 763), Pusa-23
<i>C Other Institutions</i>	
8. Mahendra Hybrid Seed Company, Jalna.	MBH 110, MBH 118, MBG 136
9. International Crop Research, Institute for semi-arid tropes, Hyderabad.	MH 179, MH 169, ICMS 7703, WCC 75, ICTP 8203

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur and many other institutes have developed such new hybrid varieties of seeds. My question is whether you have developed such a millet seed, crop of which may be ready for harvesting within the time of 60 days; if not, whether efforts are being made in this direction or not? It has been observed that the crops of millet which gets ready for harvesting in 60 days do not provide rich yield. So, I would like to know whether any research work is being undertaken in this connection or not?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Sir, research work has been undertaken in this regard. The hon. Member has himself stated that a research work has been undertaken in

Jodhpur in order to find out the type of seed which would give good yield in minimum period in the area of Thar desert. But water is essential for every type of seed and the minimum quantity required is 20 per cent. No seed will germinate otherwise. Anyhow, some new varieties like 5 MME-67 have been developed which can give yield within 60-65 days but they also need a specific quantity of water. It wouldn't do without water. Four types of seeds have been developed which are supposed to give positive results regarding production of millet in Rajasthan.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.