

ernment of India and the Ford Foundation acting on behalf of Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, for the establishment of ICRISAT signed in March, 1972, the ICRISAT will serve as (a) a world centre for the improvement of sorghum, millet, pigeonpea, chickpeas and groundnuts (b) a centre to promote the development and demonstration of improved cropping patterns and systems of farming which optimise the use of human and natural resources in the low rainfall, unirrigated, seasonally dry and semi-arid tropics (c) a centre which may undertake such other programmes of extensions of these programmes as its Governing Board may determine. The major activities of this institute as provided in the Agreement small *inter-alia* include (i) research on practical and theoretical problems including plant breeding related to the production of the five mandate crops (ii) collection, evaluation, maintenance, manipulation and distribution of basic germplasm and of improved plant materials for use in breeding, improvement and production programmes of national and regional levels (iii) training of scientists involved in research, educational and action programmes (iv) publication and dissemination of research results.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As seen from the Annual Reports published by ICRISAT, significant contributions have been made by ICRISAT in the field of research, improvement of farming system, economics, genetic resources and training of technicians|students|scientists. It has on record significant achievements in respect of the five mandate crop including release of certain new varieties; on-farm verification studies to test the applicability of ICRISATs technology; substantial improvements made in measures to reduce insect damage on pigeonpea; holding a training workshop on agro-climatological methodology jointly with iCAR; study of traditional soil productivity maintenance practices; yield gap trials etc. which are only a few for mentioning amongst various other research achievement, of ICRISAT in the year 1984 itself. This International Insti-

tute has also a very good collection of germplasm which has benefited many scientists also.

(d) As per a report given by ICRISAT the total number of germplasms available in their gene bank is approximately 82,000.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The details of functioning of ICRISAT have been explained in answer to part (c).

(g) The Government does not have any reason to suspect foreign subversion of Indian agriculture under the cover of Scientific research. MB *M *£

Allotment of Government accommodation to P. A.(s) and P- S(s)

695. SHRI M. S. GURUPADA-SWAMY:

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL

SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN. Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that several personal assistants and personal secretaries of Ministers have been provided Government accommodation in that cap,

(b) whether it is a fact that those persons have been continuing to receive that accommodation although they are no longer working with the Ministry and

(c) if so, the details of such permits and the accommodation occupied them?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR)-

(a) Residential accommodation is provided to the members of personal of Ministers as per rules on the subject and according to the quota fixed for that purpose.

(b) Those members of personal staff who are regular Government servants and are eligible for General Pool accommodation, are allowed to retain quarters even after they cease to be a member of

personal staff of the Minister. But those members of personal staff who are appointed on co-terminus basis and are otherwise not eligible for General Pool Accommodation are entitled to Government accommodation so long as they continue to hold such appointment.

Thereafter they are required to vacate the quarters after the expiry of the permissible concessional period of retention.

(c) Under the existing system, such information is not being collected or maintained separately.

Labour intensive programme for increasing agricultural production

696. DR. BAPU KALDATE; SHRI
BISWA GOSWAMI:
SHRI GAYA CHAND
BHUYAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) what are the details of important labour intensive programmes undertaken under the 20-point programme to increase the agricultural production and to accelerate rural development in particular; and

(b) what has been the effect on these programme in improving the general living conditions of the rural people?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH). (a) Under the New 20-Point Programme, two most important labour intensive programmes are National Rural Employment Programme (NREP.) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) for increasing agricultural production and accelerating rural development. Under NREP the permitted works are (i) creation of water bearing structure and construction of check dams, nallah bunding, gully plugging percolation dams, etc. (ii) minor irrigation works, including construction of intermediate/main drains and field channels, etc. and (iii) soil conservation

and land reclamation. Item* of works under RLEGP having a bearing on agricultural production include (i) construction/renovation of field channels to maximise the utilisation of potential created by existing irrigation project* (ii) soil and water conservation including improvement of minor irrigation works and (iii) land development and reclamation of wasteland.

(b) As a result of implementation of the programmes under NREP since 1980-81, about 9.82 lakhs hectare have been benefited through creation of waterbearing structures, etc. while an area of 4.94 lakh hectares has been treated with soil and water conservation and land reclamation measures. Under RLEGP, projects costing about Rs. 904 crores have been approved for implementation in 1983-84 and 1984-85. These labour intensive programmes have resulted in increase in wage earnings of the rural population in the project areas.

Export of Wheat

697. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state.

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to export about one million tonnes of wheat during the current year; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the countries to which it is to be exported and the foreign exchange likely to be earned as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH). (a) and (b) It has been decided to supply one lakh tonnes of wheat as aid to some of the drought affected African countries.

The Government also keeps the option to export wheat from the country, if necessary and feasible.