

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Conference of 8th Asian Pacific Weed Science was held at University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore from 22-11-1981 to 29-11-1981. At this Conference 286 delegates representing 18 countries including India participated.

(b) One hundred and seventeen Research Papers covering the broad areas on Weed Science viz. weed control in crops and their agronomical aspects, biology, physiology, performance of new herbicides and their residual affect etc. were presented.

(c) Only the research findings were presented and discussed. No specific recommendations was made.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of a National Horticulture Promotion Board

2190. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a National Horticulture Promotion Board; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government are considering a proposal for setting up a National Horticulture Board. The details are yet to be finalised. However, the proposal envisages that at the National level, the proposed National Horticulture Board would be required to provide the needed degree of coordination and monitoring of the production and marketing of horticultural crops.

Modernisation of Sugar Mills in Bihar

2191. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what assistance Government have provided to owners of sugar mills in Bihar for modernisation of their mills during the year 1980-81 till date; and

(b) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b) The Central Government has sponsored a scheme for providing soft loan assistance to the sugar factories in order to encourage them to modernise their plant and machinery. The Industrial Finance Corporation of India which is entrusted with this Scheme have informed that during the year 1980-81 (April-March) and the period from 1st April to 30th November, 1981 Industrial Finance Corporation of India and I.C.I.C.I. have also sanctioned assistance amounting to Rs. 50.00 lakhs in respect of one sugar mill in Bihar viz. Champaran Sugar Co. Ltd. located at Champatia, West Champaran District for modernisation and expansion of its sugar plant from 1250 TCD to 1600 TCD. Industrial Development Bank of India and I.C.I.C.I. have also sanctioned assistance amounting to Rs. 100.00 lakhs and Rs. 50.00 lakhs respectively to the said concern. I.F.C.I. disbursed an amount of Rs. 35.00 lakhs in September, 1981, against the aforementioned assistance sanctioned to the said concern.

2192. [Transferred to the 24th December, 1981].

Foreign Collaboration in Fish Farms, Dairy Farms and Cattle Breeding Centres

2193. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: