

(b) The Vector Control Research Centre of ICMR is not involved in the control of cure activities in Pondicherry. This Centre has been established only to undertake research on vector control methods.

Crop experiments carried out by agricultural research centres

1108. SHRI V. P. MUNUSAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the agricultural research centres in the country carry out crop experiments without making proper study of the cropping practices of the local farmers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the recommendations made by the research laboratories based on single-crop experiments are not acceptable to farmers who cultivate mixed-crops in the same plot of land; and

(c) whether Government propose to direct the agricultural research centres to keep in view the cropping practices of the local farmers before deciding the nature and scope of crop experiments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) No, Sir, it is not a fact. The Agricultural Research Centres in the country carry out experiments only after careful study of the crops and cropping practices of the local farmers.

(b) No, Sir. The research Centres conduct studies both on mono-crops and mixed crops depending upon the situation. In fact, the inter-cropping of legumes in cereal crops has been recommended at several locations.

(c) This question does not arise as the Agricultural Research Centres always take into account the local crops, cropping practices, the soil and climatic conditions in formulating the technical programme of research.

Construction of low cost houses by rural housing cells

1109. SHRI V. P. MUNUSAMY: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by Government for maintaining the rural housing cells in various regions in the country; and the number of designs of low cost houses prepared by these cells during the last three years;

(b) the number of such designs actually adopted in constructing low cost housing colonies and the number of low cost houses constructed in each State and Union territory based on the designs evolved by the rural housing cells during the same period;

(c) whether it is a fact that the State Governments are constructing low cost houses ignoring the designs evolved by the rural housing cells; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Rural Housing Wings functioning in various regions under the aegis of the National Buildings Organisation. The amount spent for maintaining such wings, numbering 7, in various regions, during the last three years is as under:—

	Rs.
1974-75	2,89,900
1975-76	3,79,000
1976-77	5,25,000

A number of designs of low cost houses have been prepared by these wings.