

(b) Yes. Cultivation of long-duration varieties of 'Tur' has become unpopular due to competition from high yielding varieties of cereals.

(c) Yes. Under the All-India Coordinated Pulse Improvement Project, sponsored by Indian Council of Agricultural Research, intensive work on various aspects of improvement of pulses is in progress on different pulses, including 'tur'. The evolution of short-duration varieties of 'Tur' capable of giving satisfactory yields and with resistance to wilt and stem-rot is an important objective of the programme. Several selections maturing in 120-130 days and giving satisfactory yields, have already become available and are being field tested throughout the country. Optimum agro-nomic practices for the early maturing varieties are also being worked out. Some of these early maturing types will be taken up for multiplication and distribution soon.

COTTON PRODUCTION IN VIDARBHA REGION

1148. SHRI T. G. DESHMUKH :
SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government are aware that Vidarbha is the largest single area for the production of cotton, the yield of cotton per hectare in this region is the lowest in the world; and if so, what steps Government propose to take to augment the yield of cotton in that region; and

(b) whether Government propose to establish cotton research centres in Vidarbha region for assessing the problems of cotton cultivation in Vidarbha and for suggesting effective steps to step up the production of cotton there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) Yes Sir. In order to increase the yield of cotton specific schemes sponsored by the State and Central Government have been implemented and will be continued during the Fourth Plan period.

(b) Under the Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, one

main research centre at Akola and one sub-centre at Achalpur in the Vidarbha region were established in August, 1969. Besides this, research on cotton is carried out at Nagpur, Yeotmal, Buldana, Washim and Kutki in different agro-climatic zones of Vidarbha region.

AVAILABILITY OF RADIO ISOTOPES TO THE VIDARBHA REGION

1149. SHRI T. G. DESHMUKH :
SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan for making available radio isotopes to the region of Vidarbha for the mutations of varieties as well as for treatment of stored grains and other crops for better preservation and protection; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

CAPACITY OF WAREHOUSES IN VIDARBHA REGION

1150. SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARI :
Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the capacity of warehouses of Central Warehousing Corporation in Vidarbha region has been highly inadequate in recent times; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) No. The capacity of the 5 Central Warehouses in Vidarbha is about 23,605 tonnes, while the average occupancy in these Warehouses during the preceding 12 months (ending January, 1970) has been only 86 per cent of this capacity.

(b) Does not arise. However, the C. W. C. are taking steps to put up their own warehouses at Akola and Yeotmal where