

(b) As mentioned under (a) the multiple cropping technique is being developed under the various coordinated programmes and is being tested under the National Demonstration Scheme in all the States including Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. In Tamil Nadu during 1968-69, sixty five multiple crop demonstrations were conducted. In 75% of the demonstration, yields exceeded the targetted yield of 9 and 11 tonnes per hectare.

In Pondicherry, 4 multiple crop trials were conducted during 1968-69 and in 50% cases the yields exceeded the targetted yields.

#### COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS IN THE MEMORY OF SHRI ANNADURAI

1141. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN :  
SHRI S. SIVAPRAKASAM :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of commemorative stamps issued in the memory of Shri Annadurai the late Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the number of such stamps sold so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH) : One special postage stamp in the denomination of 20 paise has been issued on 3-2-70 in honour of Shri C. N. Annadurai, late Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on the occasion of his 1st death anniversary. The total number of stamps printed was 3.5 millions.

The sale figures are being collected and will be placed on the table of the Sabha shortly.

1142. [Transferred to the 30th March, 1970].

#### UNORGANISED AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

1143. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN :  
SHRI S. SIVAPRAKASAM :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to appoint a commission to go into the question of unorganised agricultural labourers in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA) : (a) and (b) Government have decided to set up the National Commission on Agriculture. One of the specific terms of reference of the Commission would cover the special problems of agricultural labourers.

#### STUDY TEAMS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO OBTAIN, 'KNOW-HOW' IN GROWING ORCHARDS

1144. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN :  
SHRI S. SIVAPRAKASAM :

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

(a) whether Government have any proposal to send any study team to foreign countries for obtaining 'know-how' to improve the growth of orchards in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

#### IRRIGATION POTENTIAL OF VIDARBHA REGION

1145. SHRI T. G. DESHMUKH :  
SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARI :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 6 districts of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra, i.e. Buldhana, Akola, Amravati, Wardha, Yeotmal and Nagpur, have the lowest percentage of irrigation in India and the gross cropped areas here have almost negligible part of irrigated crops; and

(b) if so, what steps Government contemplate to increase the irrigation potential of these areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) The percentage of gross area irrigated to gross area sown in the six districts, viz. Buldhana, Akola,

Amravati, Wardha, Yeotmal and Nagpur of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra is as under :—

(1) Buldhana	.	.	2.3%
(2) Akola	.	.	1.4%
(3) Amravati	.	.	1.7%
(4) Wardha	.	.	1.7%
(5) Yeotmal	.	.	0.9%
(6) Nagpur	.	.	4.4%

There are other areas in the country particularly in Western Rajasthan and in Madhya Pradesh where the percentage of gross area irrigated to gross area sown is less than 0.9 (or even nil in some case).

(b) According to the procedure in vogue, Central assistance to States is given in the form of block loan and grant of the annual plan as a whole and is not related to any specific programme or schemes. The discretion for scheme-wise or region-wise allocation of funds rests with the State Governments.

The Draft Fourth Plan provides an outlay of Rs. 65.00 crores for Minor Irrigation Programme in Maharashtra. In addition, an Institutional investment of about Rs. 100 crores is expected for private minor irrigation works like wells repairs to wells, pumpsets etc., during the 4th Plan period. The State Government has been advised to raise the provision for minor irrigation in the Fourth Plan now being finalised particularly for surface water storage/diversion projects which are essential for developing irrigation in the rainfed cultivation areas. The State has also been advised to complete groundwater investigations in such areas on priority basis.

#### PRODUCTION OF OIL SEEDS IN VIDARBHA

1146. 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 the production of oil-seeds particularly of groundnut in the region of Vidarbha, has been on the wane in the last decade ; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this fall in production and how Government intends to arrest it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir. There have, however, been year to year fluctuations in the production of groundnut and other oilseeds due to variations in seasonal conditions.

(b) For increasing the production of oilseeds, particularly groundnut, the following specific steps have been taken:

1. Adoption of intensive cultivation measures on the lines of the package programme for raising the production of groundnut in Akola district over an area of 40,000 hectares, during 1969-70.

2. Stabilisation of groundnut yield in scarce-rainfall areas.

3. Distribution of improved seeds of linseed over an area of 10,000 hectares during 1969-70.

In addition, a scheme for intensive cultivation of linseed is proposed to be implemented over an area of 10,000 hectares in Bhandara district from next year.

#### BREAK-THROUGH IN RESEARCH WORK REGARDING PULSES

1147. SHRI T. G. DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has not been any break-through in the research work regarding pulses, particularly 'Tur' ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the cultivation of 'Tur' is becoming unprofitable in view of long maturing period and low yields; and

(c) whether any special research is being conducted to find out new strains of early maturity and better yields; and if so, the details thereof and progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a) Yes. Intensive, coordinated research in pulses has been taken up only recently and is still in its early stages. However, highly significant results have already been obtained in 'Tur' as well as in other pulses.