

Fall in availability of fish at Kerala coast

663. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is aware of the media reports about steep fall in the availability of fish in the Kerala coast; and

(b) if so, whether Government has any proposals to study the reasons of such scarcity of fish?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi is undertaking stock assessment studies of the commercially important marine fishery resources as a part of their on-going research programme.

Development of low erucic acid varieties of mustard

664. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR has developed a low erucic acid variety of mustard, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to make it available to farmers for large scale commercial cultivation at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) The All India Coordinated Research Project on Rapeseed-Mustard (AICRPRM) of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed eight low erucic acid varieties of Indian mustard namely Pusa Karishma, Pusa Mustard 21, Pusa Mustard 22, RLC-1, Pusa Mustard 24, RLC-2, Pusa Mustard 29 and Pusa Mustard 30.

(b) About 2300 kg breeder seed of these improved varieties was provided to various public and private seed producing agencies during the last five years ending 2014-15, in order to make available their quality seed to the farmers for large scale cultivation.

Besides, Pusa Mustard 30 variety has been licensed to three seed companies such as M/s Malwa Enterprises, Punjab; M/s Arpan Seeds Pvt Ltd., Rajasthan and Ajeet Seeds, Aurangabad for its multiplication and distribution among the farmers.