

[English]

(d) Question does not arise.

Agricultural Education

3130. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a dire need to streamline the agricultural education system in the country;

(b) if so, the appropriate policy and programmes drawn up in this regard;

(c) whether new agricultural universities are proposed to be opened; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) There is a need for reorientation and improvement in the existing Agril. Education System in order to meet the challenges and emerging needs of agriculture. However, Agricultural Education and Research is a State subject. Presently, agricultural education is imparted by the State Agricultural Universities, which are State Government Institutions and the ICAR provides partial development assistance and technical guidance only.

(b) Policies and programmes to reorient the system are being developed.

(c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has no proposal to start any new Agricultural University.

Seeds Producing Companies

3131. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the seed producing companies which are working in collaboration with foreign companies;

(b) the variety of seeds being sold by these companies at present alongwith quantity thereof; and

(c) the variety of seeds imported by these companies annually with details of quantity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) At present, there are nearly sixty seed producing companies working in collaboration with foreign companies.

(b) and (c). The collaborations of these companies have been approved mainly for production of hybrid sunflower seeds, vegetable seeds, propagating material of ornamental flowers etc. Details of company-wise seed sales are not available. The quantity of seeds imported into the country was 428.390, 148.082 and 1645.987 MTs in the year 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 respectively. The imported seeds pertain mainly to vegetable seeds like cabbage, tomato and cauliflower etc., sunflower, flower seeds, oilpalm seedlings and ornamental plant seeds.