

(b) if so, steps the Government have taken so as to sustain the agricultural productivity of land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Realising that the high yielding ability of dwarf wheat varieties has to be maintained over a longer period, the following steps have been taken by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in collaboration with the Agricultural Universities of the wheat growing States.

- (1) In order to maintain the genetic purity, which is very important for sustaining high yield levels of wheat varieties, the Breeders' Seed Production Programme has been intensified with a view to ensuring the supply of quality seed to the farmers.
- (2) New lines of Kalyansona, Sonalika and Sharbati Sonora have been developed which have high degree of resistance to the major diseases like the rusts, but at the same time having the desirable characters of these commercial varieties. These new lines are now under multiplication to replace the older varieties.

Further efforts to breed wheat varieties with high yielding abilities as well as resistance to some of the common diseases, like rusts have also been intensified. As a result, a number of new strains namely UP 301, UP, 215, Janak, Giriya, UP 310, UP, 319, K 816, Malavika, Shera, Meghdoot. J 1-7 J 24, J 40, NI 5643, VL 401, VL 404 with better yields than Kalyan Sona and better tolerance to rust diseases have been evolved. Pre-release multiplication of seeds of these varieties has been undertaken.

The following improved varieties of wheat have been identified for extensive multiplication and release by the 2482 L. S.—5

All-India Workshop on Wheat held at Ludhiana in August, 1974:—

HD—2009 (Arjun), Raj—911,

HD—1981 (Pratap), HL-365 and Shailija.

Financial Assistance for providing Accommodation under the Rural Housing Project Scheme in Bihar

908. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Bihar have sought larger financial assistance from the Centre for providing accommodation to low income group people, Harijans, and vulnerable sections of the society under the Rural Housing Project Scheme; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Central Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b). There are two housing schemes—(i) Village Housing Projects Scheme and (ii) Scheme for provision of house-sites to landless workers in rural areas under which the Government of Bihar can undertake housing and house-site programmes in rural areas. Both the schemes are in the State Sector. Central financial assistance for all State Sector programmes including rural housing, is released by the Ministry of Finance to the State Governments in the shape of block loans and block grants. The State Governments are free to earmark funds for various State Sector programmes, including rural housing, according to the requirements and priorities to be determined by them. However, keeping in view the importance of the minimum needs programme of providing house-sites to landless workers in rural areas, distinct and specific funds are earmarked in the Annual Plan allocations of State Governments.