

above. The U.S. Government are also taking steps to tighten the inspection procedure by amending their law suitably. Whether any further steps are to be taken to safeguard our interests will be examined depending on the scope of the new law under consideration of U.S. Government.

National Housing Policy

1523. SHRI S. A. MURUGANAN-THAM:
SHRI VASANT SATHE:
SHRIMATI PARVATHI
KRISHNAN:

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

(a) whether Government have evolved a National Policy on Housing; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and steps being taken to implement it?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Plan for National Service by Students

1524. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a plan for National Service by students;

(b) if so, salient features of the plan formulated;

(c) aims, objective, organisational frame work at National and State levels, coverage in terms of areas State-wise, year-wise and nature of works identified for the proposed National Service; and

(d) steps taken to put the programme on ground?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): (a) to (d). The proposal to start National Service Volunteers Scheme is under consideration of the Government.

Variation in Yield of Wheat in Punjab

1525. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the yield of wheat in various districts of Punjab has been varying considerably; and

(b) whether two specialists of Punjab Agriculture University have made any study determining the factors responsible for large variation in wheat yield in the state?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes Sir, the yield of wheat has varied considerably in different districts, with highest per hectare yield being in Ludhiana district followed by Jullunder and Sangrur districts and the lowest yield being in the districts of Rupar, Hoshiarpur and Gurdaspur.

(b) Yes, Sir. Such a study has revealed that the following are some of the factors responsible for variations in yields:—

- (i) Availability of irrigation water;
- (ii) Use of fertilisers; particularly balanced fertilization;
- (iii) Incidence of diseases like rusts due to untimely rains.
- (iv) Cropping pattern i.e. growing of wheat after paddy resulting in delay of wheat sowings; and
- (v) Incidence of weeds.