

Development of Phulwari Sharif in Bihar

*566. SHRI C. P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of small and medium towns in Bihar selected for development under the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns Scheme during the year 1985-86 and 1986-87;

(b) whether Phulwari Sharif town has been included under the said scheme; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Four new towns, viz. Siwan, Kishanganj, Sitamarhi and Buxer, and two new towns, viz. Nawadah and Purnia in Bihar, were included under the Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns during 1985-86 and 1986-87, respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Within the over-all allocation, towns for inclusion under the Scheme are sanctioned on taking into consideration the recommendations of the State Government. All the six new towns allocated to Bihar for the Seventh Plan have been included under the scheme, as stated in reply to clause (a) above, in accordance with the recommendations of the State Government.

Changes in functioning of Agricultural Universities

*567. SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to bring about new changes in the functioning of Agricultural Universities

in order to ensure return from them commensurate with the investment made;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the proposal; and

(c) the concrete plan to bring in accountability in the working of these universities ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G. S. DHILLON) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Agricultural Universities are autonomous institutions established by the State Governments through an Act passed by the respective State Legislature. The administration as well as accountability of the agricultural universities is governed by their Acts and Statutes. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research does not have any Statutory powers to direct the administration of these universities.

Rice Production

*568. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of rice has increased in the States where the programme to grow more rice has been introduced and if so, the achievements thereof; and

(b) the achievement made by the grow more rice programme in Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G. S. DHILLON) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. As compared with 1984-85, production of rice during 1985-86 has increased in five of the six Eastern States where Special Rice Production Programme was launched. In West Bengal, however, there was a marginal decrease in production, as might be seen