

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) and (b). The Government have sanctioned the establishment of a Brackishwater Fish Farmers' Development Agency (BFDA) with its headquarters at Cannanore for development of prawn farming in the districts of Cannanore, Calicut and Kasargod, during 1990(Sample)-91. The total estimated cost of the BFDA per annum is Rs. 21.70 lakh.

The Central Government would provide financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 7.63 lakh per annum, with an equal amount coming from the Government of Kerala. The remaining amount is to be obtained from commercial banks as loan. This BFDA will develop about 50 ha brackishwater area per annum, for prawn farming.

(c) A token provision of Rs. 20 lakh has been made for brackishwater prawn farming in Kerala during 1990-91, in the Central Budget. The release of funds, however, will be governed by the demand raised by the Government of Kerala and utilisation of funds released during the previous year(s).

Development of Aralam Farm In Kerala

2483. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to further develop the Aralam Farm at Cannanore in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the proposed allocation for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):
(a) and (b). (I) The Aralam Farm is run by the

State Farms Corporation of India, who are undertaking the following development activities:—

- (i) Coconut is being brought under drip irrigation system.
- (ii) By lift irrigation, the area under irrigation plantation is being increased.
- (iii) Gap filling is being undertaken in the existing plantation, where the same has been damaged.
- (iv) Preparation of Rubber sheet is being discontinued and sale of ammoniated Rubber Latex has been started to fetch more income.
- (v) Hybrid Coconut seed garden is being developed where Dwarf parent crossed by Tall parent crossed by Dwarf parent are being multiplied for raising nursery. This will fetch more income to the farm. For this purpose a pollen Lab has been set up.

(II) The allocation of resources for development works is made by the State Farms Corporation of India based upon their own financial resources. There is no proposal pending for any Govt. assistance for these development works.

Setting up Telephone Exchange at Chittariparamba Kerala

2484. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had cleared the proposal for setting up a Telephone Exchange at Chittariparamba in Cannanore, Kerala;