

Tree Plantation

*639. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHUZANTYE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken a massive programme of afforestation and tree plantation on railway land;

(b) if so, the programme executed during the last three years and results achieved in terms of actual expenditure and physical achievements along with the programme proposed during the Eighth Plan period;

(c) whether the programme executed so far has been evaluated;

(d) if so, the results thereof; and

(e) whether the Government consider plantation of fast growing species of trees/fruit trees in a planned manner to make the programme more successful and cost efficient?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 398 lakh saplings have been planted on railway land during the last three years. The expenditure incurred during this period was approximately Rs. 20 crore.

Targets for tree plantation are fixed on a year to year basis. The programme is to be continued in the remaining years of the Eighth Plan to bring more areas under the afforestation subject to feasibility.

(c) and (d) It has been observed that besides improving the environment and pro-

viding greenery along the railway lines, the afforestation programme has helped in curbing encroachment on vacant land. Also, the trees in several block plantations have now reached maturity and are proposed to be harvested to obtain revenue.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Sugar Mills

*640. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the incentives presently available for setting up of sugar mills;

(b) whether there is any scheme under consideration to encourage sugar mills in backward areas also:

(c) if so the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to encourage setting up of more sugar mills under this scheme particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Incentives in the form of higher freesale quota are available for setting up of new sugar factories which have been issued letters of intent. etc. during the period 7.9.1990 to 31.3.1994. Such factories will be allowed 100% freesale quota for 8 years in "High Recovery Areas", and 100% freesale quota for 9 years and 66% for the 10th year in "Other Recovery Areas", subject to their fulfilling the conditions laid down in the scheme.

(b) No such scheme is under consideration at present.

(c) and (d). Question do not arise

Smuggled Fish

6878. SHRI SANAT KUMAR

MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem caption "Smuggled fish poses threat to Indian species" appearing in the "Observer of Business and politics", New Delhi dated April 8, 1994

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken to ensure that this smuggled African fish does not do harm to the indigenous fish species?

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) Yes Sir.

(b) Exotic fish species of the genus *Tilapia (Oreochromis)* such as *O. mossambicus* and *O. nilotica* have been procured by the private entrepreneurs from the neighboring countries and introduced by them into the freshwater ecosystems in India

(c) The Government do not give permission for the import of the exotic species of *Tilapia (Oreochromis)*.

(d) The Government promote and support agriculture in the country with the indigenous fish species as well as certain

carefully selected and evaluated exotic fish species of carps but without the inclusion of the exotic African fish species of *Tilapia (Oreochromis)* in the fish farming systems.

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance For Spices Crops

6879. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:

SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from the Government of Madhya Pradesh and other States seeking foreign assistance for the development of spices crops in the States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) A project proposal entitled "Integrated Development of Spices in Madhya Pradesh has been received from Government of Madhya Pradesh for ADB assistance.

(b) The project is proposed for seven years at a total cost of Rs. 18409.311 lakhs. The main objectives of the project are:

(a) To increase area under spice crops.

(b) To increase production and productivity of spices.

(c) To introduce and popularise varieties and strains of spice crops suited for the exports