

The Minister of Railways (Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief) :

(a) to (c) The study group, which had been constituted for examining the existing geographical distribution of zones and divisions in the wake of Project Unigauge and the construction of Konkan Railway, has suggested a need for its rationalisation. This exercise may also entail the creation of some new zones and divisions and, in this regard further processing for formulation of proposals and other related matters is being undertaken.

[Translation]

ZOOS

*771. **Shri Narain Singh Chaudhary :** Will the **Minister of Environment and Forests** be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Government are aware that Zoos are being set-up illegally at various places in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether animals and birds for these Zoos are being brought from other Zoos or protected places/areas.

(d) the number of persons arrested so far in this connection and the action taken against them; and

(e) the remedial steps taken by the Government to have check on such Zoos?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Shri Kamal Nath) : (a) Central Zoo Authority, has received reports of establishment of some zoos without getting the recognition from Central Zoo Authority

(b) Narainpur Deer Park, West Bengal; Thenzawl Deer Park, Mizoram; National Mineral Development Deer Park, Donimalai, Karnataka Suryavan Zoo, Maharashtra, Bhadra Zoo, Madhya Pradesh and Parassinikkadavu snake park, Kerala are such zoos

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) & (e) State governments have been asked to take appropriate action as per Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 on these Zoos and not to allow setting up any Zoo in future without getting approval from the Central Zoo Authority.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

*772. **Shri Rajesh Kumar :**
Shri Tej Narayan Singh :

Will the **Minister of Agriculture** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified different areas on the basis of soil and weather etc. with a view to increasing the Agricultural Production in the country during the last year;

(b) if so, the numbers of such areas identified, State-wise;

(c) whether the maps of these areas were published to publicise about these areas so that farmers in general can be benefited by it;

(d) whether the Union Government have made any arrangements to publicise the high yielding crops in these areas;

(e) if so, the outline of aforesaid arrangements, and

(f) the total expenditure incurred by the Union Government on the arrangements for the aforesaid scheme and on publication of maps relating to identified areas during the Year 1994?

The Minister of Agriculture (Shri Balram Jakhar) :

(a) Yes, Sir The National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur has published in 1990, an Agro-Ecological Regions of India Map based on soil-scape bio-climate and the length of crop growing period

(b) and (c) The country has been delineated into 20 agro-ecological regions and further into 60 sub-eco-regions. The agro, ecological regions cut across state boundaries. Agro-ecological regions with soil moisture deficits during crop growing season have been identified to help in planning for appropriate crops and varieties and managing aberrant weather situations. In addition soil resource maps of different states in 1 : 250000 scale are being prepared. So far, maps pertaining to 11 states and 2 union territories have already been released. Maps for Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat, West Bengal and Pondicherry have been printed earlier. Printing of soil maps for other states is in progress. These maps are also useful in crop planning and agriculture technology transfer

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The high yielding varieties of crops are recommended for adoption in different Agro-ecological regions on the basis of trials conducted by the ICAR Institutes and the SAUs. These varieties are promoted by the Agriculture Ministry.

(f) For the year 1994-95, budget of Rs 520 lakhs (Plan and Non-Plan) was provided to the National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur for conducting soil surveys required for preparation of soil resource maps of the states/union territories. The Agro-ecological Regions Map of India has already been published in the year 1990 and was subsequently updated in 1992

[English]

FOODGRAINS PRODUCTIVITY

*773. **Shri P. P. Kallaperumal :** Will the **Minister of Agriculture** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Inter-State and Inter-District imbalance existed and continues to exist with regard to the foodgrains productivity;