

### Encroachment on Ridge in Delhi

\*30. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the encroachment on ridge area in Delhi has been going on unabated;

(b) if so, the details of the Forest Land encroached upon so far; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the encroachments and to protect the ridge which was declared as reserve forest in May, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) :

(a) to (c) Report have been received from various fora that encroachments have taken place on Delhi ridge. This Ministry from time to time has taken up the matter with the Delhi Government for effective management to maintain green cover on the ridge.

The Lt. Governor of Delhi had also constituted a Committee in April 1993 for suggesting an alternative management pattern for Delhi Ridge with the objective of preserving its natural habitat. This Ministry after examination of the report of the said Committee had suggested to Delhi Government measures inter-alia to declare all areas of ridge as reserved forest and to determine status of present occupants of the ridge to identify illegal occupants.

A Forest Settlement Officer has also been appointed by the Delhi Government to determine any rights alleged to exist in favour of any person over the ridge areas notified under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act 1927. Action is now being taken to issue final notification under Section 20 of the Act to declare ridge as a reserved forest and this will include settlement of rights as well as eviction of encroachments.

[Translation]

### Educational Standard

\*31. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the standard of education being imparted from primary level upto college and University levels has fallen in the educational institute being run by the Union / State Governments and the standard of education being imparted in public schools is much better though the education in public schools is more expensive;

(b) if so, whether the Government have undertaken a review in this matter.

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) Whether any scheme has been formulated to make improvements; and

(e) if so, the outlines thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (e) There is no standardised touchstone to merit a generalised statement about the decline of educational standards in state-run institutions. Standards vary from time to time in all institutions, both private and public. However, the government is fully conscious of the need to upgrade the quality and contents of education in the state-run institutions and has been taking up specific programmes in this respect in pursuance of the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986. For improvement of primary education, Operation blackboard (OB), Non- Formal Education (NFE) and Teacher Education along with District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) are the major Centrally Sponsored Schemes. A number of measures have also been taken to improve the content and process of renewal of curricula, improvement of quality of text-books, inservice training of teachers to improve their professional competence and utilisation of educational technology to bring about improvement in the quality of education. Further, all technical institutions in the country are required to conform to norms laid down by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), a statutory body created by the parliament. In order to foster quality in technical and higher education, recently the AICTE has set up a National Accreditation Council for Technical Education and the University Grants Commission has set up a similar body for higher education.

[English]

### Production of Fruits

\*32. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN :

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual production of fruits in the country;

(b) whether about 60 per cent of the fruits produced come from rainfed areas;

(c) whether there could be manifold increase in fruit production if the existing orchards are irrigated;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) As per the latest data available, the annual production of fruits during 1992-93 was 32.95 million tonnes.

(b) There is no survey specifically on the production of fruits in the rainfed areas. However, as per rough estimate nearly 50 % of the fruit production in the country is under the rainfed condition.

(c) and (d) Irrigation could have a significant effect in the fruits quality and yield of different fruit crops. Estimates of such increase in production have been reported in respect of acid lime and litchi as also some other fruit crops.

(e) The Government of India is providing assistance for large scale use of drip irrigation system in horticultural crops including fruits with VIII Plan outlay of Rs. 200 crores under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "use of Plastics". The assistance is limited to 50 % of the cost with a maximum limit of Rs.15,000/- per hectare. In addition, 1 hectare demonstration plots in drip irrigations are being set up in government farms in all the state.

[Translation]

#### Accidents

\*33. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :  
SHRI DEV BUX SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of train accidents and derailments occurred during the last six months till date zone-wise;

(b) the number of persons killed and injured as a result thereof;

(c) the causes of these accidents and derailments; and

(d) the amount of ex-gratia and compensation paid to the victims of these accidents and derailments?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Zone-wise breakup of consequential train accidents, including derailments, during the period 1.1.95 to 30.6.95 is as under :

Railway	No of Total consequential train accidents	No. of derailments
1	2	3
Central	19	17
Eastern	12	8
Northern	43	30

1	2	3
North Eastern	18	14
Northeast Frontier	12	11
Southern	30	16
South Central	15	10
South Eastern	38	34
Western	19	14
Total	206	154

(b) 199 persons lost their lives and 508 sustained injuries in these accidents.

(c) As per provisional information, 117 accidents were caused due to failure of railway staff, 39 due to failure of persons other than railway staff, 28 due to equipment failure and 3 due to sabotage. 5 accidents were incidental and 14 cases are under investigation.

(d) An amount of Rs. 8,23,750/- has been given as ex-gratia to the dependents of dead and injured passengers during the last six months. So far, no claim for compensation has been decreed by the Railway Claims Tribunal. Compensation will be paid to the claimants by the Railway Administration as and when cases are decreed by the Tribunal based on the evidence and facts.

[English]

#### Impact of Delayed Monsoon

\*34. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL :  
SHRI SANT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) Whether delayed monsoon has created drought situation in several parts of the country and there is likelihood of shortfalls in the production of kharif crops on this account;

(b) if so, the States mostly affected as a result thereof;

(c) the estimated loss in the production of various crops including the oilseeds and its likely impact on the total availability of foodgrains in the country;

(d) the measures proposed to be taken by the Union Government to meet the situation;

(e) whether the affected States have asked for financial assistance; and

(f) if so, the State-wise details and the steps taken by the Government thereon?