

[Translation]

Barren Land

*334. DR. P.R. GANGWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area of barren land converted into the cultivable land during the last three years;

(b) the estimated amount spent on the development of barren land under the various schemes the above period, year-wise;

(c) whether a large area of barren land is still lying in the country;

(d) whether our scientists have made any research to convert the barren land into cultivable land at low cost; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) and (b). Barren land includes exposed steep mountain slopes, snow covered and such other areas which cannot be brought under cultivation at an economic cost. There is no programme to bring barren land under cultivation. However, Department of Wasteland Development have reported reclamation of 1.32 lakh ha. of barren wastel and for fuel wood and fodder production. An amount of Rs. 112.41 crores has been spent for this purpose since 1992-93.

(c) An area of 19.38 million ha. of barren and unculturable lands has been estimated in the year 1992-93.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Performance of Hockey Team

*335. KUMARI UMA BHARTI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of International level tournaments in which the Indian Hockey team has participated during the last three years and the number of tournaments won by the team;

(b) whether the performance of Indian Hockey team is on decline for the last one decade;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the amount spent by the Government for imparting training and promoting Hockey during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Indian team participated in 14 International level tournaments during 1993 to 1995 and won first position in 4 tournaments, second position in 4 tournaments and third position in 3 tournaments;

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The amount spent by Government during three years is as below :

1993-94 : Rs. 62,02,246/-

1994-95 : Rs. 70,65,982/-

(upto 15.12.1995) 1995-96 : Rs. 51,14,733/-

[English]

Meetings of Chairmen of State Pollution Control Boards

*336. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a two-day meeting of the Chairman of the State Pollution Control Board was held in New Delhi during the first week of December, 1995.

(b) if so, the details of the participants, subjects discussed and the important decision taken at the meeting;

(c) whether the Government propose to amend the existing Pollution Control Acts in pursuance of the decisions taken at the aforesaid meeting;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the other steps proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the decisions taken at this meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT):

(a) Yes, Sir. A meeting of Chairmen and Member Secretaries of the State Pollution Control Boards was held in New Delhi during 4-5 December, 1995.

(b) to (e). A meeting of the Chairmen and Member secretaries was held in Delhi during 4-5 December, 1995. It was chaired by the Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board and attended by representatives of the Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees of the following States in Union territories:

Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Chandigarh, Delhi.

List of subjects discussed in the above meeting include the following :

1. Cess reimbursement and strengthening of Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees.