

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Information is being collected from the States/Union Territories.

(b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz., 'Modern Forest Fire Control Methods' is under implementation in the selected eleven States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Under this scheme 100% assistance is provided to the States for procurement of hand tools, fire resistant clothing, wireless sets, fire finders, construction of watch towers, creation of fire lines, training and demonstration, research and development and publicity.

[English]

Change of location of Sugar Mill

1429. ASHRI RATILAL VARMA :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from Gujarat State for the change of the location for establishment of a new sugar mill;

(b) if so, at which stage the proposal is lying; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal was received from M/s. Kaveri Vibhag Sehkari Khand Udyog Mandli Ltd. for change of location from Khata-Amba, Tehsil Vansada to village Dhamdhuma, Taluk Chikhli, District Valsad in the State of Gujarat for establishment of a new sugar factory. The comments/views of Ministry of Food have been sent to Ministry of Industry, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion for consideration by the Licensing Committee.

"Van Mukhiya Plan"

1430. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal of his Ministry to appoint a 'Van Mukhiya' from each panchayat to undertake village level conservation activities has been opposed by the environmentalists who believe that the guidelines suggested could result in corruption at the grassroot levels;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to launch a nation-wide 'Van Mukhiya' non-controversial plan after getting the comments of the grassroots organisations and the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) The guidelines for the scheme of Van Mukhiya

have been communicated to all the States/UT Governments. None of the State/UT Governments have opposed the scheme. The scheme was also mentioned in the "NGO's Conference" held in New Delhi on 23rd January, 1996. None of the representative opposed the scheme. However, recently Ministry has received references from 4 Non Governmental Organisations. They have raised apprehension on certain features of the scheme pertaining to nomination of Van Mukhiya by Divisional Forest Officer and incentive upto 10% from final harvest to Van Mukhiyas. It is clarified that the Van Mukhiyas shall be not nominated by the Divisional Forest Officer unilaterally but in consultation with panchayats. Similarly, incentive to Van Mukhiyas are likely to become available after a period of about 20 years, which may involve upto 10 Van Mukhiyas. Thus the share of each Van Mukhiya will be 1% or less, depending upon his performance as assessed by the Block/Panchayat level Consultative Committees.

Realisation of funds

1431. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is complacency in realising the funds to be contributed by forest user agencies including big industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount to be realised and the amount actually realised during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to realise the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) Though steps have been taken to speed up realisation of funds under compensatory afforestation scheme from the user agencies, it can not be said that there is complacency in realisation thereof.

(c) Rs. 3079 lakh, Rs. 1077 lakh and Rs. 11,173 lakh against stipulations of Rs. 3795 lakh, Rs. 264 lakh and Rs. 14876 lakh have been realised from the user agencies for compensatory afforestation during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 respectively.

(d) A special head of account for depositing and easy withdrawal has been created in the States and Union Territories.

- The proposals for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes are given final clearance only after the funds for compensatory afforestation have been realised by the State Governments from the user agencies.

- The Regional Offices of this Ministry regularly monitor the conditions stipulated by the Central Government while clearing the proposals under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.