

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to involve Army in the afforestation programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the States where they have been engaged so far; and

(c) the future plan of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (c) The Army, together with the Territorial Army, assists in afforestation programmes on both forest and non-forest lands through Eco Task Forces of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Wastelands Development Task Force of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment. The Eco Task Forces are presently deployed in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir and the Wastelands Development Task Force in Madhya Pradesh. In addition, the Army undertakes plantations in its field-firing ranges and in cantonments. These programmes are expected to continue within the resources available for them.

#### Edible Colours

1489. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2069 on August 16, 1995 and state:

(a) whether the representations received against the ban on the use of edible colours in preparation of the traditional sweets have since been examined by the technical experts;

(b) if so, the opinion of the technical experts in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The recommendations of the Technical Committee which has been received recently are being examined.

#### Utilisation of water resources

1490. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken by the Union Government to generate public awareness regarding conservation and proper utilisation of water resources in the country particularly in Kerala;

(b) the details of the achievements made by the Union Government in this regard during the last three years;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to take any assistance from the Non-Governmental voluntary organisations in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (d) Steps taken by the Government to generate public awareness regarding conservation and proper utilisation of water resources in the country including in Kerala comprise organising Water Resources Day every year at different parts of the country, arranging exhibitions at different centres and campaigning through Media etc. In addition to Governmental efforts, assistance of non-governmental voluntary organisations is also taken to observe Water Resources Day annually through seminars, workshops, issue of publications, etc. The organisations include Indian Water Resources Society, Indian Water Works Association and Institution of Engineers (India).

#### Storage capacity of godowns

1491. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of godowns of the Food Corporation of India and Central Warehousing Corporation alongwith their storage capacity, State-wise, separately;

(b) whether the storage capacity of these godowns is sufficient;

(c) if not, the additional storage capacity required by the above Corporations, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the storage requirement of the above Corporations?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) A statement each in respect of Food Corporation of India (Statement-I-II) and Central Warehousing Corporation (Statement-III) is enclosed.

(b) Since the capacity utilisation of Food Corporation of India and Central Warehousing Corporation are at 60% and 77% respectively at all India level, storage capacity with these Corporations is considered sufficient.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.