

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether these lands are needed for distribution to those who will be uprooted as a result of acquisition of land for projects?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) and (b). The Government of Kerala have a scheme for the acquisition of private forests in the State. It is the intention of State Government to bring all private forests under the ownership and control of the State in order to secure the preservation, utilisation, maintenance and development of forest wealth; for prevention of soil erosion and for development, control and protection of catchment areas of rivers and streams. A provision of Rs. 100 lakhs has been made for this purpose in the State's Third Five Year Plan. A draft Bill to provide for the acquisition of private forests has been drawn up by the State Government. It is still under their consideration.

(c) No, Sir. The object is as stated against (a) and (b) above.

Dismissal of Convicted Railway Employees

2460. Shri Yajnik: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is customary for his Ministry to dismiss from service those who have been convicted of any crime in a Court of Law and those who, though not convicted, have as approvers admitted their participation in the crime;

(b) if so, the number of persons who have been exempted from this rule, as a special case; and

(c) the reasons for such exemptions?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) No. Each case is dealt with on its merits.

(b) and (c). Do not arise in view of reply to part a) above.

Members of Legislatures' Voting Rights in the Samitis and Zila Parishads

2461. Shri Eswara Reddy: Will the Minister of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comments have been received from State Governments regarding the suggestion made by him that members of legislature should not have voting rights in the Samities and Zila Parishads;

(b) if so, the States which have submitted the comments; and

(c) whether a statement containing the comments will be laid on the Table?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) to (c). A statement giving the position of M.Ps. [MLAs] MLCs, in Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads in the different States indicating whether they have voting power or not is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III annexure No. 79].

The suggestion that MPs, [MLA.] MLCs. should not have the right to vote in Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads is engaging the attention of the State Governments concerned. The final decision will rest with the appropriate State Legislatures.

Uniforms to Ploughmen of Indian Agricultural Research Institute

2462. Shri Namblar: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been decided to supply uniforms to ploughmen and certain other categories of staff of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute;

(b) if so, whether they have been supplied with summer uniforms; and