

under consideration of Government for arranging education of beggars' children in the country; and

(b) if so, a brief outline of the scheme?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri Jagannatha Rao): (a) No. Sir. But beggars' children are automatically entitled to the education which is free of cost to other children in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

Fishing in Sunderbans Area

621. Shri Mohammad Elias: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government and the State Government of West Bengal have jointly planned for fishing in the Sunderbans area of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the main outlines of the scheme?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. E. Chavan): (a) and (b). The question of undertaking fishing in the Sunderbans area is, at present, in an exploratory stage and no scheme of a commercial nature has yet been prepared. In order, however, to determine the feasibility of undertaking a commercial scheme, a programme of exploration and research has been taken up by the Centre and simultaneously some boats of the Government of West Bengal are also fishing in the coastal waters. Administrative arrangements have also been made to combine the operations

so that the results will be known within a short time. Under the present plan, some selected spots in the area will be fished with different types of fishing gear so as to enable us to ascertain the quantity of fish present as well as the suitability of the fishing methods. After the survey is over, a commercial fishing scheme will be taken up if the results achieved warrant it.

Forests

622. Shri H. P. Chatterjee: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to make 'Forests' a 'Concurrent' subject; and

(b) if so, at what stage it is?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Soil Conservation

623. Shri H. P. Chatterjee: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the steps taken by the Centre or the States to make effective soil conservation work in the privately owned lands?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): The following steps have been taken by the Centre as well as the State Governments to make effective soil conservation programmes which cover both privately owned lands and Government lands:—

(i) Adequate provision has been made in the Third Five Year Plan for the execution of soil conservation schemes.

- (ii) A Central Soil Conservation Board has been set up by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture which is responsible for initiating and co-ordinating research in soil conservation, assisting the States in drawing up soil conservation schemes, arranging training of technical personnel for these schemes and recommending financial assistance to the States.
- (iii) State Soil Conservation Boards have been set up in most of the States to initiate, formulate and recommend suitable soil conservation schemes to the State Governments.
- (iv) Soil conservation organizations have been established in the States for the implementation of the soil conservation programme on sound technical lines.
- (v) Financial assistance in the shape of subsidy and loan is granted to the cultivators to meet the expenditure on soil conservation works.
- (vi) Soil Conservation Legislation has been enacted by most of the State Governments to empower them with adequate authority to ensure effective implementation of the programme on watershed basis.
- (vii) All India Soil & Land Use Survey Organization of the Government of India carries out soil and land use survey to help the States for planning effective soil conservation programmes. There are also 9 Soil Conservation Research Demonstration and Training Centres set up by the Central Government in various parts of the country to carry out research on soil

conservation problems and demonstrate the results to the cultivators of neighbouring areas. Training in soil conservation is also imparted at these Centres.

Minor Irrigation Projects

624. Shrimati Renuka Ray: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance is being given to encourage minor irrigation projects in the States; and

(b) if so, whether such assistance is outside the plan expenditure?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). Yes, for acceleration of minor irrigation programmes, additional allocation of Central assistance over and above the annual Plan ceilings have been made to various States from the beginning of Third Plan as under:—

Year	(Rs. in crores)
1. 1961-62	3.50
2. 1962-63	9.26
3. 1966-64	12.11
4. 1964-65	12.85

(for minor irrigation and agricultural production programmes combined.)

At the time of the Annual Plan discussions for 1965-66, the question whether these amounts of assistance will be in addition to the Plan ceilings will also be reviewed.

Accommodation for Tourists at Jammu

625. Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the hardship experienced by tourists and other passengers, travelling by air to Srinagar, when they are held up at Jammu due to bad weather, because of the paucity of proper accommodation there; and