

A FAO/SIDA Preparatory Reforestry Mission is presently in India for identifying the possibilities of large scale forestry plantation projects.

The recommendations of the Mission are yet to be received by the Government of India. They however consider an extensive series of well-designed species trials for suitable tropical pines in several States including Madhya Pradesh.

**Opinions of Eminent Doctors regarding Causes of Cancer in children**

2908 SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the opinions of eminent doctors regarding atomic radiation, adulterated food, dyestuffs in toys and sweets causing cancer in children; and

(b) if so, the remedies planned by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU): (a) Yes.

(b) In order to determine the toxicity and carcinogenicity of various substances that are commonly used, the Indian Council of Medical Research has established three units for testing environmental carcinogens at the following Institutes under the Council:

- (i) Institute of Research in Reproduction, Bombay.
- (ii) National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad.
- (iii) National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad.

The Unit at Bombay is mainly engaged on studies on carcinogenicity of edible oils and relation of Tobacco to oral cancer. The Unit at Hyderabad

is primarily engaged in carrying out studies on carcinogenicity of popular edible oils in the market and of common beverages like Coca-Cola, Gold Spot, etc. The investigations are in progress.

**Central Allocation for Slum Removal/Slum Improvement in Amritsar, Punjab**

2909. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) the Central allocation for the slum removal/slum improvement in Punjab and especially the city of Amritsar during the Fourth Plan and how much has been expended; and

(b) how much amount is to be spent during the year 1973-74 for the beautification-cum-slum improvement of the city of Amritsar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) and (b). Since the commencement of the 4th Five Year Plan, the Slum Clearance and Improvement Scheme is in the State Sector and Central assistance is provided to the State Governments in the shape of 'block loans' and 'block grants' for all the State Sector Schemes taken together. The State Governments are free to earmark funds for this scheme and for the various slum areas in the State out of the Central allocation, according to their requirements and priorities.

**Study of Desert area of Jodhpur by U.N.O. for Cultivation**

2910. SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some experts of the U.N.O. have recently visited desert area of Jodhpur to explore means of cultivation there;