

Adoption of Foreign Technology in Steel Sector

5116. DR. KARTIKESWARPATRA Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector steel plants manufacturing sponge iron are employing foreign technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of foreign collaborators; and

(c) the export earnings of these during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b): Sponge iron is not being manufactured by public sector steel plants. However, there is one sponge iron plant with a capacity of 60000 tonnes per annum at Paloncha in Andhra Pradesh, operated by sponge Iron India Ltd (SIIL), a public sector company. The first module of this plant a capacity of 30000 t. p. a. was commissioned in 1981. This was set up with UNIDO assistance and with technology supplied by M/S Lurgi, Gmbh of Germany. The second module

of the same capacity was set up by SIIL itself.

(c) Sponge Iron is not being exported at present as there is shortage in the country.

Oil Palm Plantation

5117. SHRISUDHIRSAWANT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area under Oil Palm Plantation, State-wise;

(b) whether any incentives are being given to backward, hilly and coastal areas for plantation of Oil Palm;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the steps being taken to increase the plantation of Oil Palm?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The estimated area under Oil Palm plantation, State/Union Territory-wise is as under:

Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1593 ha.
Andhra Pradesh	1215 ha.
Karnataka	1020 ha.
Kerala	3700 ha.
Maharashtra	700 ha.
Total	8228 ha.

(b) and (c), Government of India, the Department of Biotechnology, has launched jointly with the State Governments oil palm demonstration projects (ODPS) over an area

about 1000 ha. each in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. The areas covered are East Godavari, West Godavari and Krishna districts of Andhra Pradesh,

Shimoga district of Karnataka and Konkan region of Maharashtra. The incentives provided under the project include planting material, fertilisers, plant protection chemicals and a portion of the labour component for the first four years after field planting.

(d) The following schemes have been sanctioned as an advance action for the area expansion under oil palm cultivation:

(1) Oil Palm Seed Garden, Andhra Pradesh.

(2) Front-line Demonstration, Kabini Irrigation Project, Mysore.

(3) Seed nurseries on each in Shimoga and Mysore districts of Karnataka.

(4) Expansion of the seed germination capacity at CPCRI, Palode.

Two oil palm development projects in an area of 12,100 ha. in A.P. and 5000 ha. in Karnataka have been posed to the EEC for their assistance.

Captive Fish Farming

5118. SHRISUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage Captive Fish Farming in irrigation projects;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard including the technology proposed to be adopted;

(c) whether such projects are being implemented in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The steps taken by the Government include research and development work carried out by fishery research institutes of ICAR on cage culture and the proposal to utilise pen culture extensively for rearing of fish seed for releasing in the reservoirs in the proposed World Bank assisted Shrimp and Fish Culture Project in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The Government of Kerala has also a Scheme for cage and pen culture of fish in reservoirs with German assistance. A project was implemented for culture of prawn in pens in Killai lake of Tamil Nadu under the Bay of Bengal Programme, Madras, the results of which were not very encouraging.

Water Management Cells

5119. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the main objectives of the Water Management Cells; and

(b) the number of such cells set up so far and the number of projects taken up by those Cells?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). There is one Water Management Cell in the Ministry of Water Resources. The main objectives of the cell is to coordinate the various activities pertaining to National Water Management Project (NWMP) being assisted by World Bank. Water Management Cell itself does not take up execution of projects. It processes the projects proposed by States for inclusion under N.W.M.P. So far the cell has proc-