

(b) Two.

(c) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Research Work in Rubber Board

3366. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop the research work of the Rubber Board both in farming and marketing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount of expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

(d) whether the Government have fixed any target for the export of natural rubber during 1993-94 and the total foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Rubber Research Institute of India under the Rubber Board is undertaking research in all aspects of farming, including vital areas like agronomy, biotechnology tissue culture etc. The Rubber Board regulates marketing of natural rubber by issue of licences.

(c) The total expenditure incurred during 1992-93 for research is Rs. 527.75 lakhs.

(d) No, Sir. The Government have not fixed any target for export of natural rubber during 1993-94.

[Translation]

Recruitment Camps

3367. SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the name of the States where camps for recruitment of Jawans in Army have been organised during 1992 and the number of the Jawans recruited therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): During the year 1992 recruitment rallies were conducted by various Recruiting Zones in the States of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala,

Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh and in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

It will not be in the public interest to disclose the number of jawans recruited at the recruitment rallies.

Desert Land in Gujarat

3368. SHRI DILEEPBHAI SANGHANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large area of land in Gujarat turn into desert area every year;

(b) if so, the estimated area of land particularly in the Kutch-Saurashtra region;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(e) the steps being taken to prevent spread of desert area in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) The Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur, through its research in hot arid zone, has established that there is no evidence of land area in the country being turned into desert. The process of desertification, however, is noticed in some areas, including that of Gujarat because of increasing biotic activities like cultivation of marginal lands, over-grazing, lopping and felling of trees and prolonged droughts and occasional unprecedented floods. Desert on the other hand is an eco-system characterised by extreme temperature, poor rainfall, low humidity, high wind velocity, frequent dust storms and drought.

(d) and (e) The Union Government is aware of the problem of desertification in some areas of Gujarat. These areas need to be treated through appropriate measures to control the process of desertification. Towards this objective, the Desert Development Programme (DDP) was launched in 1977-78 and is now under implementation in 9 blocks of Banaskantha and Mehsana districts of Gujarat. The Kutch district of the State was originally covered under DDP, but was later on shifted to the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) as per the recommendation of the Task Force on DPAP & DDP, 1982. The Task Force felt that three of the 9 blocks of the district were included