Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

5065. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Governments have to take prior clearance for the development projects and programmes from the Union Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State Governments cannot undertake the work of road construction, installation of electric transmission lines, laying of pipe lines for water supply etc. due to inordinate delay involved in taking off such projects and programmes because of sending them for prior approval to the Union Government;

(c) whether the State Governments have to bear the financial burden caused by cost escalation due to the delay caused by the above procedure;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government propose to provide powers to the State Governments as per the prescribed terms and conditions for undertaking development projects and programmes;

(e) if so, the details of these powers; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (f). As per provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, prior approval of the Central Government is necessary for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. Proposals received under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are examined expeditiously for decision. In order to further decentralise and streamline examination of proposals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, revised consolidated guidelines were issued by the Ministry on 25.10.92. These guidelines interalia include delegation of powers to Regional Chief Conservators of Forest to finally decide proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 5 ha. excluding proposals for regularisation of encroachments and mining, and initial examination of all proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 20 ha. in consultation with State Advisory Groups consisting of representatives of the State Governments.

Grant-in-aid to Laboratories

5066. SHRI SWAMI SURESHANAND : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether grants-in-aid provided to Universities for the maintenance of Chemistry laboratories is adequate in view of the escalating prices of chemicals; and (b) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to enhance the grants-in-aid for the upgradation of Chemistry laboratories?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Palm Oil Centres

5067. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to set up Palm oil centres in various parts of the country particularly in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; location-wise; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (c). Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP) for bringing 80,000 hectares under Oil Palm during the Eighth Plan with an outlay of Rs. 94.55 crores (Government of India share) is being implemented on 75:25 sharing basis between Government of India and concerned State Governments in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Gujarat, Goa, Orissa, Assam and Tripura.

In Assam, Oil Palm Development Programme is being implemented by State Department of Soil Conservation through Assam Plantation Crops Development Corporation Limited. One oil palm nursery is being set up at Harmoti in Karbi-Anglong District. An area of 500 hectares will be brought under oil palm cultivation during the Eighth Plan in Assam.

Palm Oil processing mills are being established in all States including Assam under joint sector/public sector/cooperative sector/private sector.

Gauge Conversion

5068. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the Budget of 1994-95 funds were allotted for fine work programme for Gorakhpur-Anand Nagar-Gonda and Anand Nagar-Nautanwa project of North East Railway;

(b) whether the Railway Board itself postponed the above project;

(c) if so, whether the General Manager of North-Eastern Railway has given suggestion of phase-wise implementation of this project; and (d) if so, the reasons for which the work particularly in this very backward area on Indo-Nepal was postponed and the time by which work on this project is likely to be taken up by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) This work is included in the action plan for Gauge Conversion Phase-1 and is planned to be taken up in the 9th plan period.

[English]

Fertilizers

5069. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the measures planned by the Government to minimise to regional imbalances in use of fertilizers and to promote its consumption to boost up agricultural production; and

(b) the present share of use of fertilizers in agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Measures taken by the Government to promote the consumption of fertilizer and minimise the regional imbalances are as follows :

- (i) Fertilizer consumption is reviewed during Fertilizer Zonal Conferences before each of the Kharif and Rabi seasons and low consumptions States are advised to increase the fertilizer consumption.
- (ii) Central assistance for supply of small fertilizer bags is available under the scheme on National Project on Development of Fertilizer Use in Low Consumption and Rainfed Areas.

- (iii) Under the scheme on Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizers, Central assistance is made available for strengthening soil testing laboratories.
- (iv) To increase the consumption of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, scheme on Concessional Sale of Decontrolled fertilizer is also continued during 1994-95.

(b) In agricultural sector the estimated use of fertilizer is 13.83 million tonnes nutrients.

National Co-Operative Development Corporation

5070. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR :

Will the MInister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of projects proposals submitted by the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra to the National Co-operative Development Corporation during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) whether some project proposals are pending with the National Co-operative Development Corporation;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the stage at which these proposals are pending; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for early clearance of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (d). Details of project proposals received by National Cooperative Development Corporation from Governments of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra during 1993-94 and 1994-95 and their present status are given in Statements I and II respectively.

STATEMENT-I

Details of Project Proposals Indicating the Position of Sanction by NCDC in Respect of Tamil Nadu

(Rs. lakhs)

	Activity	1993-94				1994-95				
S.		Sanction		Pending	Sanction	Sanction		Pending	Sanctioned	Remarks
No.		No.	Amt.	No.	Amount	No.	Amt.	No.	Amount	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Sugar	2	1210.00	-	-	-	-	1*	834.86	*Additional infor- mation sought
2.	Spinning Mills	1	33.50	-	·	3	143.23	-	-	-
З.	Handloom	4	12.235	-	-	1	3.75	-	•	•
4.	Dairy	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	-	•

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