

(a) whether the Government propose to open the branches of National Agricultural Cooperation Marketing Federation (NAFED) in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the names of countries where these are proposed to be opened; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture (Shri Arvind Netam) : (a) NAFED has opened one branch in Dubai (Jabal Ali-Free Trade Zone) w.e.f. 20.1.94. There is no proposal for opening any more branches in foreign countries at present.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

'ENCROACHMENT ON RIDGE IN DELHI'

1396. **Shri Cheddi Paswan :**
Shri Kunjee Lal :

Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Supreme Court has recently issued directives to remove all such encroachments from the ridge areas of Delhi which are reducing the greenery of Delhi;

(b) whether any initiatives has been taken by the Government in the direction of removing the Polo-ground and other encroachments done by Government, religious institutions and private persons including military and paramilitary camps;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Shri Rajesh Pilot) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) All the ridge areas of Delhi have been notified under section 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 with the intention of the government to constitute these as reserved forests under Section 20 of the said Act. Forest Settlement Officer has been appointed to consider the claims, failed by various parties before final notification is issued. While deciding the claims, the Forest Settlement Officer will consider the allotments made to various institutions by the Land and Development Officer of the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment. The removal of the encroachments can be decided only after the Forest Settlement Officer has passed suitable orders in the matter.

LITERACY AMONG TRIBALS

1397. **Shri Mahesh Kanodia :**
Shri Kashiram Rana :

Will the Minister of Human Resource Development be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any time bound programme for alleviation of illiteracy and propagation of literacy among the tribals;

(b) if so, the details thereof with special reference to Gujarat; and

(c) whether any target has been fixed by the Union Government to fulfil this mission with cooperation of the State Government?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education and Department of Culture) (Kumari Selja) : (a) and (b) Under the integrated approach of education for all, universalisation of Elementary Education, Non-Formal Education for school dropouts and Adult Education Programmes under the National Literacy Mission are being implemented in all the States and Union Territories including the Tribal districts of Gujarat. Almost all the primary schools have been covered under the ongoing scheme of Operation Black Board. All the districts of the Gujarat state have also been covered under Total Literacy Campaigns for imparting functional literacy to the illiterates in the age-group of 9-35 years.

(c) There is no quantification of year-wise targets under the Literacy campaign. The national Literacy Mission has the objective to make 100 million persons literate in the age-group of 15-35 years by the end of 8th Five Year Plan. However, an attempt is made to cover all the potential learners identified through survey.

ALL INDIA RICE EXPORTERS FEDERATION

1398. **Shri Ram Kripal Yadav :**
Shri Arjun Singh Yadav :

Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Rice Exporters Federation has sought Government's permission to sell Rice one rupee less than the rate prevailing in the open market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have granted permission to the consortium; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Food (Shri Ajit Singh) : (a) to (d) Government has received a number of requests from