

by the Inland waterways Authority of India through RITES earlier, Quilon-Kovalam stretch of West Coast Canal was not found viable. However, the report of RITES has been referred to M/s. NATPAC to assess the cost of development afresh.

Funds for Cashew Research

1341. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have granted any financial assistance to the Agricultural Universities in the country for Cashew research;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to give special assistance to the Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Cashew, following Research Centres have been allocated funds for cashew research during the VIII plan:

1. Bapatla Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University (Andhra Pradesh)	Rs. 23.58 lakhs
2. Bhubaneswar Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology (Orissa)	Rs. 17.18 lakhs
3. Chintamani University of Agril. Sciences (Karnataka)	Rs. 22.53 lakhs
4. Jhargram Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (West Bengal)	Rs. 19.08 lakhs
5. Madakkathara Kerala Agricultural University (Kerala)	Rs. 18.01 lakhs
6. Pilicode Kerala Agricultural University (Kerala)	Rs. 11.82 lakhs
7. Vengurla Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, (Maharashtra)	Rs. 18.29 lakhs
8. Jagadalpur Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (Madhya Pradesh)	Rs. 14.65 lakhs
9. Virudhachalam Tamil Nadu Agril. University (Tamil Nadu)	Rs. 20.03 lakhs

Besides above, following *ad-hoc* research schemes on cashew are also in operation:

1. "Influence of weather and soil factors on growth, yield, nut weight and nut quality of cashew in West and Eastern coast of India" at Kerala Agricultural University for 3 years. (Rs. 392260-00).

2. "Rapid multiplication cashew through in-vitro methods" at Kerala Agricultural University, Trichur for 3 years. (Rs. 703500-00).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Subsidy to Manufacturers of Fertilizers

1342. SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present policy regarding payment of subsidies to the manufacturers of fertilizers;

(b) whether the recommendations of the State Governments to pay subsidies to manufacturers in the respective States are the main criteria in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested the Union Government to fix the prices and pay the subsidies to the manufacturers direct without recommendations from the State Governments; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN): (a) and (b). At present, Urea is the only fertilizer under Statutory Price Control and subsidy on it is paid by the Department of Fertilizers to individual manufacturing units and varies from unit to unit.

Government of India is also reimbursing concession on sale (to the farmers) of de-controlled indigenous phosphatic and imported potassic fertilizers to the fertilizer supplying agencies on the basis of certified reports of sales received from States/UTs.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. It is not possible to fix a uniform price for decontrolled fertilizers.

Vegetables and Flowers Development

1343. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has forwarded a project proposal for Dutch Assistance for vegetables and flowers development in the Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the latest stage of the proposal; and

(d) the date by which the project proposal is likely to be accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN): (a) to (d) . The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Houses in Villages

1344. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal to construct cheap and durable houses for the most needy people living below the poverty line in villages;

(b) if so, the time when the Government had received, this proposal, the outline of the said proposal and the decision taken by the Government thereon;

(c) the total number of houses to be constructed under the said scheme and the total amount likely to be spent thereon and the time by which the said action plan is likely to be completed; and

(d) the criteria on the basis of which these houses will be allotted to the eligible people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under Rural Housing Scheme, which was launched in 1993-94 with an objective of providing central assistance to the State Governments for implementation of their rural housing programme for the people below poverty line, proposals were received during 1993-94 and 1994-95 and Rs. 11.00 crores and Rs. 30.00 crores respectively were released to various State Governments. During 1995-96, this scheme was merged with Indira Awas Yojana with effect from 1.1.96 with the result that all the proposal under rural housing scheme received during 1995-96 were not considered and no grants have been released to States.

During 1995-96, proposals for construction of houses under Indira Awas Yojana through Non-Governmental Organisations/Voluntary Organisations have been received and the same are under consideration of the Government.

(c) It is proposed to construct about 30,000 houses under Indira Awas Yojana by involving the voluntary organisations. The central assistance will be released to the eligible voluntary organisations during the current year.

Under Indira Awas Yojana which is a continuing scheme of the Government, 24,61,759 houses have been constructed till the end of January, 1996 since its inception in 1985-86 with an expenditure of Rs. 3,129.28 crores.

(d) Under Indira Awas Yojana, the houses are provided to the Scheduled Castes/Schedules Tribes and non SC/ST rural poor living below poverty line.

[*Translation*]

Advisory Committee of ICCR

1345. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Advisory Committee have been constituted by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations for the various regions of the world;

(b) if so, the names of the members of the Committee, region-wise; and

(c) the procedure being adopted for the selection of the members?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L.BHATIA): (a) No, Sir. As per the decision of the Governing Body taken at its meeting held on 22nd February, 1994, a Planning Committee was set up and entrusted with the task of preparing the Annual Action Plan for ICCR. The Planning Committee oversees programmes for all regions of the world.

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

[*English*]

Indians in Jails in Gulf Countries

1346. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indians are jailed in Gulf countries for petty reasons without any justification;

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

(c) whether the Government have secured any mutual understanding with those countries for the release of these jailed persons during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(d) if so, the details thereof, country-wise; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government for the early release of the remaining persons?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Indians, like nationals of other countries and local citizens, are subject to local laws and may be arrested and jailed when these laws are violated.