

[English]

Drought In Idukki District of Kerala

1594. SHRI PALAI K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the severe drought conditions prevailing in the Idukki district of Kerala:

(b) whether Government propose to declare Idukki as a drought affected area and rush Central assistance to meet the situation; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) to (c). The declaration of any area in a State as drought affected is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. The relief and rehabilitation programmes in drought affected areas are also undertaken by the State Government. The Central Government only supplement the efforts of the State Government by extending financial assistance if a formal request in the form of a memorandum to that effect is received from the State Government. The State Government of Kerala have not submitted any memorandum seeking any financial assistance on account of severe drought conditions after the south-west monsoon period of 1989-90.

Security Measures for safe Travelling in Railways

1595. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Police have reported increase in crime on railways during the last two years and if so, the percent-

age of such increase in crime cases:

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to augment security measures;

(c) whether a decision to set up mobile police posts on some trains has been taken; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) to (d). The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime on the railways is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police which functions under the control of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Information regarding crime on railways is not compiled by the central agencies. The decision on the setting up of mobile police posts is also to be taken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations according to requirements of the situation.

Government Railway Police provides escorts on Super fast/Mail/Express Trains according to the local conditions and requirements. Railway Protection Force also assists the Government Railway Police in this task as and when necessary. The railway authorities also hold co-ordination meetings with the Government Railway Police authorities of various States for ensuring propose escorting of passenger trains as and when any deterioration is noticed in the law and order situation in any particular area and the matter is immediately taken up with the concerned police authorities.

Setting up of Pesticide Review Committee

1596. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: