

Working Conditions in ICAR Research Complex for NEH region, Nagaland Centre, Jharnapani

361. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts vacant in the ICAR Research Complex, North Eastern Hills Region (Nagaland Centre), Jharnapani and since when;

(b) whether Government are aware of the reports that the staff working in the aforesaid ICAR complex is in the grip of constant fear and threat to their lives by the terrorists;

(c) whether Government have also received representations/complaints in this regard; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken/contemplated in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Out of a total number of 125 posts sanctioned for the Nagaland Centre of the Research Complex for the North-Eastern Hill Region, 35 posts are at present vacant, the vacancies ranging from two to six years.

(b) to (d) There are no terrorist activities at the Nagaland Centre. However, on 2nd April, 1986, the Joint Director of the Centre was assaulted by a group of local youths. This incident created a sense of insecurity among the officers and staff at the Centre. The Chief Minister of Nagaland, the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police were requested to provide security to the officers and staff working at the Centre. At present, the situation at the Centre is normal. In fact, the Centre is functioning normally since 10th April, 1986.

Allocation for replacement of disease affected old coconut trees

362. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total allocation for the replacement of disease-affected as well as old coconut trees and the rejuvenation of the existing plants during the year 1986-87; and

(b) the details of the work done in this respect in Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The replacement of disease-affected as well as old cocount trees and rejuvenation of existing coconut plams is proposed to be taken care of under the scheme 'Integrated Development of Coconut Industry in India' proposed by the Coconut Development Board for the Seventh Plan. The Scheme and the allocations for various sub-components under it are under consideration.

(b) During the Sixth Plan period and 1985-86, a total of 2.46 lakh diseased palms were removed and 66,000 trees were rejuvenated by supplying 15 lakh seedlings at a total cost of Rs. 210.80 lakhs under different schemes.

Closure of newspaper establishments on 1 July, 1986

363. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH :

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether newspaper establishments were closed on 1 July, 1986 following a decision by the Executive Committee of the Indian and Eastern Newspapers

Society as a mark of protest against certain policy decisions in respect of newspaper industry;

(b) if so, the specific issues that evoked the protest; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) Reports to this effect appearing in the Press have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) According to the Press reports, the closure had been called for as a mark of protest against the alleged arbitrary policy of the Government in the matter of allowing higher quantum of Interim Relief to the Newspaper Employees, increase in news-print prices, low rates for Government advertisements, etc.

(c) The Government is fully committed to the growth of a free Press in the country and has been taking all possible steps in a rational manner for its overall development within the constraints posed by limited availability of country's resources.

[*Translation*]

Assistance to States for drought relief

364. SHRI DILEEP SINGH
BHURIA :

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD
RAWAT :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of districts affected by severe drought in the country till June, 1986 State-wise;

(b) whether any Central team made any on-the-spot study of the areas affected and if so, the dates on which such studies were conducted;

(c) the amount of assistance recommended by Central team, State-wise; and

(d) the amount of Central assistance given, State-wise as also the amount of money spent by each of these States on that account by mobilising their own resources ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (d) State-wise information in respect of number of districts affected by drought during 1986-87 (till June, 1986), dates of the visits of the Central Teams and ceilings of expenditure approved so far, are given in the Statement given below. As regards, the details of the amount spent by the States by mobilising their own resources, information is being collected from concerned States and will be placed on the Table of the House, on receipt.