

The Government do not entirely agree with the opinion of the authors because productivity of oilseeds has increased from 570 kgs./ha. in 1985-86 to 848 kgs./ha. in 1994-95 and as such the oilseeds production has gone up on account of increase in area, higher productivity on account of Research and Development efforts and remunerative prices to the farmers.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research as a part of this R and D programme has already launched All India Coordinated Research Projects on Oilseeds and evolved better varieties of seeds and better production technology. The Government has promoted R and D in the post harvest and processing technologies through the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The Government is also promoting oil palm cultivation in the country.

#### Review of TADA Cases

\*276. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission and the National Minorities Commission recommended to review the TADA cases in their respective reports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b). National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has not specifically recommended to the Central Government to review TADA cases. However, the Commission has been reviewing the position with regard to TADA cases since 1995-96 with representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the State governments. In its Annual Report for 1995-96, the Commission has urged that the Review Committees set up in individual states should meet regularly as has been directed by the Supreme Court. The National Commission for Minorities has, however, not made any recommendation regarding reviewing of TADA cases, although in June 1994 it had recommended repeal of TADA Act.

(c) Apart from periodic review of TADA cases by the Central Review Committee and the State Review Committees, Central Government has issued instructions to the State Governments/UTs from time to time that adequate and immediate steps must be taken for early completion of investigation and prosecution of the TADA cases and they should give strict instructions to their prosecution branches not to obtain adjournment in such cases. As regards cases which are at trial stage, they have been advised to take measures to facilitate speedy trial. The Central Government is closely monitoring the

progress in these respects.

#### Konkan Railway Project

\*277. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the schedule of the Konkan Railway Project as originally conceived/approved and the cost estimates thereof;

(b) whether the schedule for completion of the project has been badly delayed, leading to the huge cost over-runs;

(c) whether several tunnels and portions of this Railway line have caved in, resulting in huge loss of the human lives and money;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The Konkan Railway project as originally conceived was to be completed in a period of 5 years viz. by Oct.'95. The cost of the projects as sanctioned was Rs. 1043 crs. at 1989-90 price level.

(b) Due to agitation in Goa, and unexpected geological and other technical problem as well as financial constraints, the project is slightly delayed, and it is expected to be completed by Oct.'96 for goods traffic and Dec.'96 for passenger traffic.

(c) and (d). There were a few cases of tunnel collapses and failure of cutting slopes/embankments. However, considering the adverse soil conditions in which these tunnels and cuttings/embankments are made and the heavy intensity of rain fall in the area, such failures could not be avoided. The total number of casualties on account of tunnel collapses was 19. All these deceased men were belonging to tunnel contractors and necessary exgratia payment and compensation has been arranged in all cases and employment to one dependent of each deceased person has been offered by KRCL.

(e) The project is nearing completion and is expected to be commissioned for goods traffic by Oct.'96 and passenger traffic by Dec.'96.

#### National Watershed Development Projects

\*278. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of National Watershed Development Projects during the last three years;

(b) if so, the names of States where the projects are not working satisfactory; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A four tier monitoring and review mechanism has been provided in the project for reviewing the implementation of the project at national, state, district and block levels. Recently a detailed review of the project was undertaken in the meeting of National Watershed Development Policy and Implementation Committee, the apex body on 18th July, 1996 and two days National Workshop held on 18th and 19th July, 1996.

(b) and (c). These reviews have indicated that the States/UTs where the performance is found to be less than satisfactory on an overall basis are Assam, Bihar, Goa, Arunachal Pradesh and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

Based on the periodical intensive review of the performance of these States, concerns have been communicated from time to time to the States by the Central Government to remedy the situation. As a result of these initiatives, the performance in many of the earlier slow-performing States has begun to show distinct improvement

#### Private Sector in Afforestation Programmes

\*279. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allot forest land to private sector for promoting the afforestation programmes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No forest land is proposed to be allotted to private sector for promoting the afforestation programmes

(b) Does not arise

[Translation]

#### Encroachments on Railway Land

\*280. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total land of the Railways encroached upon by the people;

(b) whether the Railways have filed cases against the encroachers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) About 2500 Hectares of Railways land is under encroachment.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 35963 cases have been filed under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

[English]

#### Territory of Darjeeling

2058. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the G.N.L.F. of late has been raising the issue of taking steps for the constitutional incorporation of the territory of Darjeeling;

(b) if so, the stand of the Central Government regarding this issue;

(c) whether the Government have communicated their view to the G.N.L.F.;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Shri Subash Ghisingh, as President of the Gorkha National Liberation Front, had filed a Writ Petition in the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Government of India to formally absorb the territories of Darjeeling including Kalimpong, Assam Dooars and Bengal Dooars, in the Union of India through a Parliamentary legislation. The Supreme Court had dismissed the Petition.

(b) These are integral part of India.

(c) to (e). In a meeting held on 5.3.1992, Shri Ghisingh, President of the Gorkha National Liberation Front, was apprised of the correct position of the issue by the Home Minister

#### Unreserved Coaches in Long Distance Trains

2059. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the railway journey undertaken by a large number of labourers from Purnia Division of Bihar to Delhi, Punjab and various other parts of the country;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the difficulties being faced by these labourers due to the negligent number of unreserved coaches in the long distance trains.