

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has taken up studies in 47 model watersheds in 16 States to evaluate the production technologies for increasing and stabilizing the yield in rainfed areas.

(b) The results, so far, have indicated that even in worst drought year (1987) the watershed management approach has resulted in improved crop production in the project area in comparison to outside the project area. The soil and water conservation measure adopted in the area have resulted in increased soil water storage, enhanced ground water recharge and in improved yield from the wells. Introduction of improved crop production technologies have increased crops yields to an extent of over 100 per cent in most watersheds. Introduction on capability based land use has resulted in increased coverage under forestry/grassland system thus reducing soil loss due to arosion.

Integrated Forest Policy

4776. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an integrated forest policy for the entire north-east region could ensure proper protection of the natural eco-system in the watersheds; and

(b) if so, the details of long-term policy framed for the conservation of the eco-system in the catchment areas of all rivers and streams flowing through the North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The national forest policy addresses itself, *inter alia*, to the conservation of the eco-systems of all areas of the country including the North Eastern Region.

Area Under Cashew Cultivation in Kerala

4777. RHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area under cashew cultivation in Kerala has markedly increased over the past years;

(b) the area in Kerala State under cashew cultivation during 1975 and 1985 respectively;

(c) the total output of the cashew crops during 1975 and 1985 respectively;

(d) whether any study has been made to determine that expansion of area under cultivation of cashew crops is at the cost of forest land; and

(e) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) As per land-utilisation statistics, the area under cashew cultivation in Kerala during the crop year 1975-76 was 1.09 lakh hectares, which increased to 1.38 lakh hectares during the crop year 1985-86.

(c) The production of cashewnut in Kerala during 1976-77 was 1.07 lakh tonnes and in 1985-86, it was 1.29 lakh tonnes.

(d) The area under forests in Kerala has not shown declining trend during the years 1975-76 to 1985-86.

(e) Does not arise.

Estimates for Approach Road to Kuttipuram Over-Bridge

4778. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimates for the approach road to the Kuttipuram (Kerala) over-bridge is pending with the Ministry;