

foreshocks common with reservoir induced seismicity were not present in these recent tremors in Idukki area.

(c) and (d). Environmental Impact Assessment of reservoir projects is undertaken on the basis of ecological information environmental action plans prepared by the project authorities to meet possible adverse environmental implications. Certain parameters such as seismicity, hydrology, landuse planning, etc., are studies also by using mathematical models.

Grants to New Universities

1357. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken by Union Government not to give grants to new universities in the States :

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a step is likely to have deterrent effect on the speed at which the new universities are being opened; and

(d) the reaction of the States thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) The U.G.C. Act was amended in June, 1972 to make a provision that no grant shall be given by the Central Government or U.G.C. to a University after the date of commencement of that amendment (17th June 1972), unless the Commission has declared such university fit for grants. There have been further amendments to this provision.

(b) to (d), Do not arise. However, since June, 1972, 50 new Universities have been established, of which 10 are still to be declared fit by the U.G.C. Another Seven Universities were declared fit by the U.G.C. are not being sanctioned any grants since the assurances given by the State Governments concerned to make good the deficiencies have not so far been fulfilled.

Oilseeds Technology Mission

1358. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Technology Mission on Oilseeds Production was successful in improving oilseeds output despite drought in 1987-88;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the increased output was in regard to the traditional oilseeds crops or new ones like soyabeans and sunflower;

(d) whether there has been progress in oil palm cultivation and oil extraction from the palm;

(e) whether there is any plan to make use of such highly nutritious oils like rice bran oil; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Despite one of the worst droughts of the century in 1987-88 which witnessed excess or normal rainfall in only 40% of the meteorological sub-divisions in the country, the production of oilseeds is estimated to be around 120 lakh tonnes. This compares favourably with 114.5 lakh tonnes in 1986-87 (60% normalcy) and 108.3 lakh tonnes in 1985-86 (74% normalcy). Record production has been reported in both traditional and non-traditional oilseeds, rapeseed-mustard, sunflower and safflower.

(d) Oil Palm India Ltd. has progressively planted 3705 hectares in Kerala and 1263 tonnes of oil were extracted during 1986-87.

Since it is a relatively new crop having a long gestation period, an Oil Palm Demonstration Project is being undertaken in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra to popularise its cultivation.