

Threat Posed by Pooyankutty Dam

1419. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposed dam project on the Pooyankutty river in Kerala is likely to destroy the finest breeding ground of the Asiatic elephant in Idukki district of Kerala according to environmentalists; and

(b) if so, the steps Union Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) This Project involves diversion of 3001 ha. of semi-evergreen forest, which is the habitat of elephants.

(b) This proposal is yet to be processed for clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as the necessary information including the preventive and mitigative measures for protection of wildlife has not so far been received from the project authorities.

Coconut Development and Research Centres

1420. SHRI VIJAY N PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the States where Coconut Development and Research Centres have been set by Union Government;

(b) the States selected by the Centre for coconut saplings plantation schemes;

(c) whether Union Government have considered the suitability of opening Coconut Development and Research Centres in Maharashtra for the benefit of coconut producers; and

(d) if so, the details of such schemes for Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Coconut Development Board has been set up in Kerala for integrated

development of coconut in India. It has regional offices at Bangalore and Patna and State Centres in Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Tripura and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Central Plantation Crops Research Institute under Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) looks after research on coconut. ICAR has also set up Research Centres in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

(b) The Area Expansion Programme of the Coconut Development Board for new planting is being implemented in all coconut growing States.

(c) The Regional Office of Coconut Development Board at Bangalore looks after development of coconut in Maharashtra. There is, a coconut research centre at Ratnagiri under the All India Coordinated Research Project.

(d) Under the Area Expansion Programme a subsidy @ Rs. 3000/- per hectare is provided for taking up new planting of coconut in Maharashtra. In addition, subsidy @ Rs. 1000/- is granted for developing irrigation source/installation of pump-sets.

Modernisation of Rajabagan Dockyard

1421. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since cleared the modernisation scheme for the Rajabagan Dockyard of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation which had been with it for the last five years or so;

(b) if so, the broad features of the proposal and the capital outlay involved;

(c) the foreign assistance anticipated or agreed to be provided for this project; and

(d) the time schedule laid down for the completion of this plan ?