

six month and (ii) one year and reasons for not filling the same;

(b) the actual requirements of these hospitals in respect of doctors, nurses and other staff; and

(c) the time by which the necessary information will be laid on the Table of the House ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) to (c). The required information is as given below :

Name of the post	Sanctioned strength	Post lying vacant for six month to one Year	more than one year
1. Doctors	2635	102	303
2. Nurses	4898	67	286
3. Para-medical staff	2963	78	250
4. Other staff	11,905	262	547

According to the information furnished by the State Governments, the posts have been lying vacant generally on account of either non-finalisation of recruitment rules, non-availability of suitable candidates for filling up of reserved vacancies, non-availability of qualified candidates for technical posts or procedural delays in filling up the posts etc.

Replanting of coconut trees in Andhra Pradesh

3959. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the coconut trees in the State of Andhra Pradesh are old and not yielding good crop ;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to replant new coconut trees in the State ;

(c) if so, the details of the scheme and the time by which it is expected to be implemented ; and

(d) how much financial assistance will be provided by the Central Government for the purpose and when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) No detailed survey has been made about old and less productive coconut palms in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The Coconut Development Board has prepared an Integrated Development Project for 15 States and Union Territories for the Seventh Plan. This includes replanting of 500 hectares of old and uneconomic plantations in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d). Under this Project a replanting subsidy of Rs. 100 per palm or Rs. 15,000 per hectare whichever is less is proposed. The Scheme could not be considered for inclusion in the Seventh Plan because of paucity of funds.

Failure of Tissue Culture Technique on Papaya

3960. SHRIMATI USHA VERMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a news-item published in 'Jansatta' dated 14 July, 1985

regarding tissue culture project on papaya undertaken by IARI Pusa, New Delhi;

(b) the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the amount spent on it so far, and the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report in the daily is based on an inaccurate interpretation of the facts presented. The scientist has achieved success in developing a suitable and commercially viable technique for producing papaya seedlings through tissue culture. He has demonstrated the potential of the technique and has worked out the cost-benefit ratio also. He has, however, not adopted the technique for mass production, as he is presently evaluating the final performance of plants raised by such a method. Unless that is tested scientifically and shown it papaya plants ultimately perform well and carry desired characters, the technique cannot be used for large scale production.

(c) The amount spent on the establishment of a tissue culture laboratory at Indian Agriculture Research Institute is approximately Rs. 2.56 lakhs on equipment only.

The research work conducted so far has resulted in isolation of tissues for culturing, standardisation of media for callusing, and multiplication perfecting conditions required for culturing, transplantation of plantlets to soil and use of various growth regulators to improve the growth of plantlets. The papaya plants raised by tissue culture are now being evaluated for their performance in respect of vigour, fruiting, quality, resistance to diseases and pests and sex differentiation.

Fish Production

3961. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE

AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) measures taken by Government to increase fish production;

(b) foreign exchange earned by exporting fish and fish products during the last three years; and

(c) total annual production and potential of fisheries exploited till now in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) The vast potential of fisheries in the country is being increasingly exploited through several schemes and programmes being implemented both under States and Central Sectors. Some of the important programmes being implemented by the Central Government are as follows:

- (i) Assistance to the States in diversifying fishing activities and motorization of indigenous craft through loans/subsidy;
- (ii) augmentation of deep sea fishing fleet through a judicious mix of indigenous, imported and chartered fishing vessels;
- (iii) providing 33% subsidy on the cost of indigenously constructed deep sea fishing vessels;
- (iv) providing loans on soft terms for purchase of deep sea fishing vessels through the Shipping Development Fund Committee;
- (v) augmentation of Fisheries Surveys and assistance for construction of fishing harbours at major and minor ports and of the landing and berthing facilities at smaller fishing centres; training of fishery operatives for manning the fishing vessels;