

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI):

(a) The schemes of Slum Clearance/Improvement and the Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums are operated by the State Governments as part of the State Plan. The Scheme for Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums is also part of the Revised Minimum Needs Programme. Central financial assistance for State Plan schemes is given in the shape of block loan and block grant. Inter-sectoral allocation of funds within the State Plan are made by State Governments according to priorities adopted by them, keeping in view the guidelines laid down by the Government of India and the Planning Commission. There is no allotment of funds by the Government of India specifically for slum clearance or slum improvement. Under the Minimum Needs Programme, the allocation made, under the State Plan, by the Government of Karnataka for environmental improvement of slums during the preceding three years is as under:—

Year	Amount allocated (Rupees in lakhs)
1977-78	50
1978-79	60
1979-80	105

(b) No information in this regard is available.

Check on Denudation of Forests and Natural Environment to Preserve Wild Life

7568. SHRI BHJKHU RAM JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the talk delivered by Prof. Charles H. Southwick of the University of Colorado that the neglect of the environmental and food needs of the primates have endangered the primates and many of the species—the

population of monkeys have shown fall up to 90 per cent and nearly 200 non-human species are in the endangered list;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the measures proposed to check the denudation of forests, restore natural environments and preserve the primates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government is laying special emphasis on protection of the existing forests and the natural environment as well to schemes of afforestation aimed at reforestation of forest areas. Likewise schemes for wildlife conservation and management are being supported and promoted. The existing arrangements for wild-life reserves are being reviewed and strengthened. As a result, the status of wildlife in general is expected to improve and the Primates will also get protection. All the States and Union Territories have been advised suitably in this regard.

Request for take over of Aralam Farming by Kerala Govt.

7569. SHRI K. KUNHAMBU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has requested the Centre to allow it to take over the Central farm at Aralam; and

(b) if so, the decision of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). The workers of the Central State Farm, Aralam, went on strike