

National Policy Resolution on Education 1968 provides the goals and perspectives of educational development and successive five year plans provide the focus on action programmes and strategies for development. Within this broad framework, the Central and State Government programmes are reviewed annually during the "Plan discussions". It is the continuous endeavour of the Central and the State Governments to improve the standard of education.

Extinction of snakes

3613. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ruthless and extensive destruction of snakes for commercial exploration have brought their extinction and caused ecological imbalance leading to damage to foodgrains; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). Snakes are generally not killed or destroyed for commercial exploration, nor is their extinction likely to bring about their extinction. However, Government is aware of the role of snakes in maintaining ecological balance, particularly in controlling agricultural pests, and the following steps have been taken for their protection:—

(i) Some species of snakes have been included in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby providing legal protection from hunting or killing.

(ii) States/Union Territories have been advised not to issue trapping licences for snakes.

(iii) Export of snake skins has been banned.

Panel of vacancies in F.C.I.

3614. SHRI R. N. RAKESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have issued instructions that there should be one panel for existing and probable vacancies for each grade and cadre in a year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Food Corporation of India is having the practice of drawing more than one panel for promotion from Category II to Category I and within Category I for different grades and cadres;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of promotion panel for each grade and cadre drawn in 1978-1979 and 1980 and the number of employees considered and selected in each panel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) According to Government of India instructions issued in December, 1980 panel for promotion to selection posts is to be drawn with reference to the number of clear regular vacancies proposed to be filled in the year.

(b) and (c). The normal practice followed by the Food Corporation of India is to draw one panel for promotion from Category-II to Category-I and within Category-I for filling vacancies in a year. However, panels have been drawn more than once in a year when fresh vacancies have arisen in the year on account of death, resignation, voluntary retirement, creation of new posts, deputation of officers outside the organisation, repatriation of deputationists etc.

(d) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2116/81].