

**Cultivation of Turmeric and Mulberry Bushes in North Bengal District**

2412. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to attach top priority to tree planting in the North Bengal districts ;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to expedite the work ;

(c) whether Government propose to consider to bring the entire high forest area in the districts under the cultivation of turmeric and Mulberry bushes for the production of indigenous silk without adversely affecting the valuable trees that exist ;

(d) if so, details of the scheme ; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected from the State and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

**Assistance to Karnataka for Poultry Centres**

2413. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to give proper weightage to poultry during Sixth Plan ;

(b) whether any assistance has been given to Karnataka during 1981-82 for opening some poultry centres ; and

(c) if so, the number and names of places where such centres will be opened during sixth plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN) : (a) Poultry development has already been given proper weightage during the Sixth Plan period.

(b) and (c). The establishment of poultry farms/centres falls in the State Sector. An allocation of Rs. 36 lakhs has been made to Karnataka State by the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction for setting up of poultry, piggery and sheep production units during 1981-82 in the districts of Gulbarga, Tumkur and Dharwar under the Special Livestock Production Programme for small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers. The target is to cover 600 families on an average in one district per year. Further, under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) of the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction, poultry units can also be set up out of the total allocation of Rs. 35 lakhs per block in Karnataka during the Sixth Plan period.

**Research Work by Central Rice Research Institute in Karnataka**

2414. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Rice Research Institute has conducted any research work in Karnataka ;