

Erosion of Land by River Ravi in Amritsar

6753. SHRI L.S. TUR : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to notice of Government that River Ravi has eroded the land of villages in Teh. Ajnala District Amritsar and spurs have also been eroded;

(b) has it also come to his notice that River Ravi has caused danger to many villages as it has changed its course.

(c) it is also a fact that land and tubewells and other machinery of farmers worth crores of rupees in V. Paharpur has also been damaged ; and

(d) what steps are being taken to control River Ravi and compensation to sufferers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) to (d). The Punjab Government have reported that the erosive activity of River Ravi has been observed in some areas in Amritsar district. The State Government had already constructed a series of spurs to check the course of River Ravi for providing protection to land and villages. Schemes to provide immediate protection to recently affected areas have been prepared by the State Government. Damage to crop/land is yet to be assessed by the State Government.

Cultivation Production and Export of Fruits

6754. SHRI SUDHIR KUMAR GIRI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and kind of fruits exported, if any, in 1978, 1979, 1980 and 1981 and the amount of foreign exchange earned thereby;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to undertake projects for the cultivation of fruit in different States by acquiring lands ;

(c) the commercial prospects of growing pineapples on a larger scale in the country; and

(d) whether Government are providing financial assistance to States for the production of fruits ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI) : (a) A statement indicating the kind of fruits exported, their quantity and value is attached. Figures for the full financial year 1980-81 are not so far available.

(b) No, Sir,

(c) There is a vast scope of pineapple cultivation on commercial scale. The latest technology of high plant density advocated by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research can raise the production to about 50 to 60 tonnes per hectare. There is also considerable scope for the expansion of area under pineapple.

(d) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of pineapple is in operation in the Union Territories of Arunachal Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on banana development is also in operation in Goa.