

1	2	3	4	5
Madhya Pradesh	2,55,946	1,41,970	79,803	31,775
Maharashtra	3,70,193	2,81,586	2,81,586	76,892
Manipur	1,029	36	—	—
Orissa	1,41,902	1,19,888	1,01,456	77,343
Punjab	49,597	15,731	12,407	2,939
Rajasthan	2,46,495	2,20,643	1,22,230	26,212
Tamil Nadu	79,292	75,840	58,257	38,360
Tripura	1,881	1,563	1,034	891
Uttar Pradesh	2,82,631	2,59,63	2,32,807	1,88,946
West Bengal	1,57,014	99,793	55,658	1,66,255
Dadra & N.H.	8,958	6,180	3,406	1,512
Delhi	780	413	—	—
Pondicherry	2,520	1,006	904	1,010
Total	40,43,823	26,66,654	18,40,667	13,34,652

News item captioned "Scientist warns against Soil degradation"

2452. SHRI HARINATHA MISRA:
MISRA;
SHRI A. K. ROY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item under the caption "Scientist warns against soil degradation" published 'Times of India' dated 10 February, 1982;

(b) if so, whether the Twelfth International Congress of Soil Science was held at New Delhi, in the month of February, 1982;

(c) if so, the suggestions formulated by the Congress, which are applicable to our country and the Government's reaction to each one of these suggestions;

(d) whether Dr. P. Buringha noted international soil scientist has suggested as follows:—

(i) most of the land being utilised for urbanisation was a very good agricultural land, as historically, most of the cities were established in fertile agricultural belts;

(ii) from the technical and agricultural point of view it was possible to produce 10 times as much food as were produced at present;

(iii) the world had about 17,000 million hectares of potentially arable land which was not being cultivated at present but its distribution varied from region to region; and

(e) how far the above mentioned opinions are relevant to India and the measures Government have already taken, or propose to take on each of these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The deliberations of the Congress were held under seven approved Commissions of the International Society of Soil Science, namely; (i) Soil Physics; (ii) Soil Chemistry; (iii) Soil Biology (iv) Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition; (v) Soil Genesis, Classification and Cartography; (vi) Soil Technology; and (vii) Soil Mineralogy.

The highlights of this Congress were the Symposium on World Soils Policy and that on Desertification. The Congress concluded on 16th February, 1982. The proceedings and recommendations are yet to be received from the International Soil Science Society and when received these will be examined for suitable action.

However, some of the Important recommendations which emerged during the deliberations are as follows:

(i) Establishment of an International Soil and Water Research Institute with a network of centres in the tropical regions;

(ii) Establishment of a new Sub-Commission on "Soil Conservation and Environment" under the International Society of Soil Science;

(iii) Intensification of both basic and applied research for increased fertilizer use efficiency and maintenance of soil productivity.

The Government is aware of soil problems in India and action has already been initiated as under:

(i) To strengthen the basic research in Soil Science, it has been decided in principle to set-up the Indian Institute of Soil Research;

(ii) The Research support in Soil, Water and Fertilizer use has been strengthened during Sixth Plan in 21 Research Institutes and 41 All India Coordinated Projection Crop Improvement and Soil Productivity;

(iii) To continuously monitor and coordinate the soil and land use policies in the States, the Government of India is establishing a Central Land Use Commission.

(d) (1) Yes, Sir. Dr. Buringh in his lecture at the plenary session on 'Potentials of World Soils for Agricultural Production' referred to losses of potentially productive cropland. According to him 200 million hectares estimated to be lost to non-agricultural uses in the world, during the period of 25 years from 1975 to 2000 A.D.

(ii) Yes, Sir. Dr. Buringh further stated that the potentials of world soils for agricultural production are high. According to him, it is possible to produce about ten times as much food as is produced at present.

(iii) This was also one of the observations made by Dr. Buringh who stated that the present area of crop land is 1500 million hectares, whereas the total area of potential crop land is approximately 3200 million hectares. Thus, the potentially arable land in the world is approximately 1700 million hectares which are mainly used as grassland and partly as forest.

(e) Government of India is conscious of the fact that due to the population pressure in urban areas some of the agricultural land adjoining the cities are being used for non-agricultural uses such as housing, industry, roads, recreational facilities etc.

As far as the production potential of India is concerned the experimental findings from Research Farms and National Demonstration provide evidence of a potentially achievable gap

of 200 to 300 per cent at the current level of available crop production technologies.

Regarding the potentially arable land which is not being cultivated at present, the scope is limited as far as India is concerned. Projection made by the National Commission on Agriculture (1976) showed that by 2000 AD it is possible to bring in another 10 million ha under plough by reclaiming culturable waste, by providing new irrigation facilities and by reducing the amount of fallow land.

Sale of Vanaspati in Polypacks

2453. SHRI HARINATHA MISRA:

SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR:

SHRI S. B. SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item under the caption "Vanaspati in polypacks", as published in the Economic Times in its issue dated 11 February, 1982;

(b) if so, whether Government plan to market Vanaspati and edible oils in polythene packets which will reduce the consumer price since polypacks are considerably cheaper than the conventional tins; and

(c) whether the proposal of the Ministry for this scheme is pending with the Ministry of Health for clearance; if so, since when and the efforts that have been made or are proposed to be made to get the clearance as quickly as possible?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Government is examining the possibility of introducing marketing of vanaspati and edible oils

in flexible packs which may be made of Low Density Polythelene Extruded/High Density Polythelene Extruded combination or any other suitable combination. In consultation with the Health Ministry, samples of packing materials have been sent to the Central Food Technological Research Institute Mysore who have been asked to determine the suitability of such flexible packs for packaging vanaspati and edible oils and report the results to the Government.

Applications for registration under self financing scheme

2454. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that D.D.A. invited applications for registration under the third self financing scheme with a specific condition that no house in South Delhi will be allotted to any registered application of that scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that DDA have a proposal under consideration to invite applications very shortly for registration under the self financing scheme for the allotment of houses in South Delhi;

(d) if so, when and what are the details in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The DDA has reported that in the brochure of the Third Self Financing Scheme it was mentioned that the location of the colonies was likely to spread over to areas other than South Delhi. It has reported that subsequently some pockets in South Delhi were located and, therefore, some more flats in South Delhi were constructed and offered to the persons registered under