

**Assistance for development of National parks and sanctuaries in Sixth plan**

2471. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-DASAN NADAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of assistance expected to be given for development of National Parks and sanctuaries in the Sixth Plan period;

(b) what is the respective amount, proposed to be given to Kerala for the Development of National Parks and sanctuaries; and

(c) the amount of assistance proposed to be given for the Development of Silent Valley as a National Park?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The total outlay in the Sixth Plan period for providing assistance to the States for development of National Parks and Sanctuaries is Rs. 499.00 lakhs.

b and (c). Central assistance to be given to Kerala for the development of National Parks and Sanctuaries will be decided on the quantum of central assistance sought by them in the developmental scheme which the State Government will submit. This would include assistance for the development of Silent Valley National Park as well.

**Hindrance of forest conservation act, 1980 to hydro-electric projects**

2472. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-DASAN NADAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Forest Conservation Act, 1980 is affecting

adversely the execution and investigation of the Hydro-Electric Projects;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to exempt all the Hydro-Electric Projects including transmission lines, from the purview of the Forest Conservation Act 1980; and

(c) whether Government of Kerala has placed this request before the Central Government and if so, the details of action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Cases of Hydro-Electric Projects involving forest areas require clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and these are being dealt with expeditiously. There is no provision for exemption under the existing law.

(c) The Kerala State Electricity Board had represented to the Central Government for exemption of Hydro-Electric Projects including laying of transmission lines from the purview of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. It has been clarified in this connection that no such general exemption can be given and that each case where use of forest land is required for Hydro-Electric Projects etc. would have to be examined on merits in accordance with the provisions of the above mentioned Act.

**Supervision of fishery project at Vizhinjam base**

2473. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-DASAN NADAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) who is supervising the work of the Vizhinjam Base of the exploratory fisheries project;