

merit-cum-seniority. However, for purely ad-hoc appointments the criteria of seniority-cum-fitness is adopted. All the 13 officers promoted and appointed as Assistant Director of Horticulture on regular basis vide Office Order No. 565/81 were selected on merit-cum-seniority basis.

(b) and (c). 6 persons mentioned in para 1 of the said office order, were already working in the Department of purely ad-hoc basis, before they were promoted on regular basis of officiate as Assistant Director of Horticulture. As such, the contention that the first six Sectional Officer (Hort) have been promoted on the basis of seniority-cum-fitness and the remaining seven on the basis of merit-cum-seniority is not correct.

Promotion of Assistant Engineers in D.G. Works

7440. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress about the ad-hoc promotion of Assistant Engineers (Departmental candidates) in the office of D.G. Works; and

(b) the reasons for delay in promoting them?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) The question of ad-hoc promotion of Assistant Engineers (Departmental candidates) arises only when the vacancies are available in the grade of Executive Engineers (Civil and Electrical). There is no vacancy in the grade of Executive Engineer (Civil and Electrical), at present.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Disease to Pepper Crops in Kerala

7441. SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that a kind of disease is spreading to the pepper crops in high ranges of Kerala;

(b) whether it is a fact that because of the disease the yield of pepper has reduced alarmingly and causing loss to the earning of the agriculturists and foreign exchange to the exchequer; and

(c) steps Government have taken to prevent this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) to (c). The most destructive disease of pepper vines in Kerala is the quick wilt which is incited by the fungus, *Phytophthora palmivora*. The disease attacks the foliage and basal part of the vines. Losses in infected gardens may range between 25—30 per cent.

This disease is being investigated on a priority basis at the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute of the I.C.A.R. and also under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Spices Integrated control strategy has been recommended involving the use of Bordeaux Mixture, good agronomic practices and sanitary measures.

Grants to Institute of Agriculture Sciences of Banaras Hindu University

7442. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Institute of Agriculture Sciences of the Banaras Hindu University receives grants from Government and the I.C.A.R. for research activities;

(b) if so, the amount paid by Government and the I.C.A.R. during the last three years;

(c) whether Government have received several complaints against the Institute of Agriculture Sciences in BHU alleging misuse of funds, Auditors adverse Report, unused tractors and large scale death of milch animals;

(d) whether the attention of Government have been drawn to the news item "From Piece found in Cow's stomach" appeared in the Times of India of November 10, 1981 reporting death by traumatic gastritis of over 250 cows and calves; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Some of the research activities of the Institute of Agricultural Sciences, BHU are supported with grants from I.C.A.R.

(b) The grants released to the University during the last 3 years by ICAR are given below:—

- (i) 1978-79 : Rs. 10.67 lakhs
- (ii) 1979-80 : Rs. 29.70 lakhs
- (iii) 1980-81 : Rs. 20.46 lakhs

Information on the grants from other Government sources is being collected from the University.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. Details about the reported death of 250 cows and calves, and reasons thereof, are being obtained from the Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University.

(e) The Banaras Hindu University has appointed a Committee headed by the Director of Animal Husbandry, Uttar Pradesh, to go into the matter. The report is awaited.

Work in Delhi Rent Control Courts

7443. SHRI R. R. BHOLE: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether work in Delhi Rent Control Courts has increased considerably during the last three years as a result of which 6-7 months date are given for hearing;

(b) what was the number of judges in these courts as on 31 March, 1979 and also as on 31st Jan., 1982; and

(c) how Government propose to clear the arrears in these courts?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) The work in the Delhi

Rent Control Courts has increased during the last 3 years.

(b)	As on 31-3-79	As on 31-1-82
Rent Control Tribunal	1	1
Rent Controller	1	1
Add. Rent Controllers	6	6

(c) Provisions already exist under Section 35(2) of the Delhi Rent Control Act, 1958 for appointment of Additional Rent Controllers. It is also proposed to constitute additional Rent Control Tribunals by making suitable amendments in the Delhi Rent Control Act.

Integrated Rural Development Programme, National Employment Programme and minimum needs Programme

7444. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KID-
WAI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether three specific centrally sponsored programme namely Integrated Rural Development Programme, the National Rural Employment Programme and the Minimum Needs Programme have been mooted for the economic development of the rural poor under the Sixth Plan;

(b) if so, the amount of money that has been spent so far by the Centre and the States on these programmes;

(c) what is the extent of benefits that have been given to the rural poor under these programmes so far; and

(d) the number of families that have benefited so far under these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Statements I & II in respect of I.R.D.P. and N.R.E.P. are laid