

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government will consider to have such Centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Thirty one Krishi Vigyan Kendras (Farm Science Centres) are functioning in the country at present.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research proposes to establish about 50 more Farm Science Centres in the country during the Sixth Five Year Plan in order to strengthen vocational training for farmers, farm women and young farmers.

(d) Does not arise.

News-item captioned 'Science meet backs Chipko'

7623. SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards an article captioned 'Science meet backs Chipko' published in the *Hindustan Times* dated 12th January, 1982;

(b) whether Government have considered the recommendations of the 68th Science Congress at Varanasi in January last regarding protection of trees in the hilly areas to avoid land slides, a 25-year moratorium on tree felling etc.; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the follow-up action taken by Government in the matter?

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

(c) A 25-year moratorium recommended would not be feasible. The fellings in forests are done according to scientific principles to ensure that whatever is removed is adequately compensated by re-

generation either by natural or artificial means. The areas which are susceptible to land slides and soil erosion are kept out of fellings.

The question of creation of Biosphere reserves is being examined. A Committee headed by Professor K. N. Kaul is going into the entire question of forest fellings, tree conservation and ecological balance and their improvement in U.P. Himalayas.

Sale of Vanaspati at high rate in Delhi

7624. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vanaspati is being sold in Delhi at higher rate than fixed by Government;

(b) if so, at what rate and what are the reasons; and

(c) what measures are being taken to sell it at control rate to the public?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF): (a) According to the Delhi Administration, no instance of over-charging was reported to them.

(b) and (c). The industry has been maintaining a voluntary price restraint so as to sell vanaspati at an ex-factory price not exceeding Rs. 217/- inclusive of excise duty for a tin of 16.5 kg. The prices of small packs are correlated with the price of a 16.5 kg. tin. The industry has been asked to keep the price arrangement effective at all levels—producers' wholesalers' and retailers. The voluntary price arrangement is, by and large, being maintained.

Residential Plots allotted by DDA out of the Discretionary Quota

7625. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DDA in Delhi is empowered for allotment of residential plots under its discretionary quota, if so, the number of plots allotted under the