

techno-economic feasibility established and cost/benefits are firm ed up.

Working of Food Corporation of India

3305. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAIN SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been mis-management and corruption in the Food Corporation of India at the level of senior management during the course of procurement operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps taken to eradicate the corruption and improve the procurement operations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Any complaint received in connection with procurement operations is promptly inquired into by the management of the Food Corporation of India and appropriate action is taken. Further the Corporation has squads at Regional/Zonal/Head Office levels which visit procurement centres for inspection in this regard.

Development work of Coconut Board

3306. SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of fund allotment no development work is carried out by the Coconut Development Board during last year;

(b) the reasons, for not carrying out the new planting and replanting the schemes of Coconut Development Board; the reasons as to why the Board is not issuing low interest long term loans to encourage cultivators and give cash subsidy to new cultivators; and

(c) is there enough staff to carry out the development schemes of the Coconut Board?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Seven projects recently submitted by the Coconut Development Board include new planting and replanting of coconut palm and also grant of subsidy for diseased palms removed by the farmer. Provision has also been made for the advance of institutional credit on favourable terms to the growers. These projects were received in January, 1982 and are being processed.

(c) Yes Sir.

Soil erosion a problem for soil scientists

3307. SHRI M. RAMGÓPÁL REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that soil erosion is posing a major problem for the soil scientists in the country; and

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINÁTHAN): (a) The problem of soil erosion is a matter of concern to all including the soil scientists in the country.

(b) A statement is attached.

Statement

Recognising the problem of widespread soil erosion and land degradation the Government initiated the soil conservation programmes during the First Five Year Plan through Central and State Sectors. Simultaneously, a chain of 9 Research, Demonstration & Training Centres, were established in various regions with a view to collect information and data relating to the problem and evolve remedial measures to tackle the same and to organise demonstration and impart in-service training to the personnel of various levels.

With the formation of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, these Centres, except one at Chatra (Nepal), have been transferred to the Council and reorganised under the Central Soil & Water Conservation Research & Training Institute at Dehradun. During the Second Plan the All India Soil & Land Use Survey Organisation was established to carry out the surveys and identify the priority/responsive areas for planning and implementing the soil conservation programmes with the available limited resources. During the Third Plan the Centrally sponsored schemes were launched in the Catchments of Multi-purpose River Valley Projects and also for conducting surveys and categorisation of culturable waste lands and ravinous areas in the States. During the Fourth Plan period Pilot Projects were initiated for establishing the feasibility of protecting productive table lands from the encroachment of ravines, reclamation of shallow ravines for agriculture/horticulture and developing medium & deep ravines into fuel and fodder reserves. During the Fifth Plan period, besides continuing the programmes in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and ravinous areas, pilot projects were also taken up to control the areas subject to shifting cultivation and strengthening the Soil & Land Use Survey Organisations in the States. Besides, a Centrally sponsored scheme was launched for conserving soil, water and trees in the Himalayan regions and also for developing drought prone and desert areas. Till 1979-80 a total area of 23.4 million hectares has been treated. During the Sixth Plan the programmes under the State Sector continue to treat the lands subject to various problems while special support from the Centrally sponsored schemes is being extended through the schemes of:

(i) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects.

(ii) Soil, Water and Tree Conservation in the Himalayans.

(iii) Strengthening of Soil Survey Organisation in the U. Ts.

(iv) Control of Shifting Cultivation in the U.Ts.

Besides, a Centrally sponsored scheme of Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchments of flood Prone Rivers has been launched in 8 Catchments of Indo-Gangetic Basin, with a view to increase ability of the Upper Catchments to hold rain water and thus reduce flood and sedimentation hazards below.

Similarly, to stabilise and increase aggregate production from rainfed areas, a Centrally Scheme of Propagation of Water Conservation/Water Harvesting Technology is proposed in 14 States. In order to provide policy direction on matters concerning the care of soil health and to coordinate the programme of soil conservation amongst different Departments, a Central Land Resources Conservation and Development Commission is being set up. This Commission will also oversee and coordinate activities of the 26 State Land Use Boards. An area of 6.5 million hectares is proposed to be treated under these schemes during the Sixth Plan.

In addition to the schemes given above, programmes will also be implemented in the States for development of drought prone and desert areas like implementing the massive programme of afforestation including the social forestry in the States.

सिंचाई विभाग के कर्मचारियों को स्थाई
किया जाना

3308. श्री राम लाल राही : क्या
सिंचाई मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे
कि :

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विभाग के अस्थायी कर्मचारियों को
स्थायी करने का कोई प्रस्ताव विचाराधीन
है ; और