

Extinction of Sandal Wood Forestry

3324. SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sandal, wood forestry is facing extinction due to Government apathy towards the saplings which has been hit by a disease caused by a mycoplastic organism;

(b) if so, whether Government are going for a crash plan to protect this particular type of spices from extinction;

(c) if so, details of the said plan; and

(d) if not the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) No, Sir. However, the Sandal trees which occur in nature with other plants, sometimes suffer from spike disease, the cause of which may be mycoplasma or virus which is under investigation.

(b) and (c): Research on spike disease of Sandal wood trees is being done for quite sometime in the Regional Forest Research Laboratory at Bangalore. To intensify the research work, a separate field oriented research centre was established during the 5th Plan at Bangalore with an outlay of Rs. 14.00 lakhs. During the period 1978—83, an outlay of Rs. 12.25 lakhs was provided for this Centre. During VI Plan period a provision of Rs. 24.48 lakhs has headed by a Conservator of Forests supported by Senior Research Officer (Genetics) Research Officer (Entomology), and other staff.

Research on this problem is also being conducted at Kerala Forest Research Institute.

(d) Does not arise.

Financing Pattern for Housing Schemes

3325. SHRI GHULAM MOHAMMAD KHAN: Will the Minister of

WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revise financing pattern for various schemes of sites and services, housing slum upgradation and urban housing;

(b) whether as a consequence of change in norms, the interest rates are likely to be affected; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; what steps are taken not to pass on higher borrowing cost of HUDCO to the poor and weaker sections of the society?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS & HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) to (c). The Working Group, appointed by the Government to examine the existing financing pattern of HUDCO and suggest changes therein, has since submitted its report. No decision on the recommendations has so far been taken.

Schemes for Rural Development

3326. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals from states with regard to the schemes for rural development;

(b) if so, what are these schemes and the States which have sent these schemes;

(c) what decisions have been taken thereon; and

(d) what are the salient features of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BAL-ESHWAR RAM): (a) to (d). The Integrated Rural Development Programme and the National Rural Employment Programme are the major centrally sponsored rural development schemes under implementation covering all the development blocks in the country.