

Indian Council of Agricultural Research are not interrelated as they deal with different groups of crops. The C.T.C.R.I. carries out research on tuber crops other than potato, whereas C.P. C.R.I. carries out research work on plantation crops and spices. The aforesaid Institutes were set up in Kerala State on the basis of scientific/technical considerations only.

(c) Merger of the two Institute would not be advisable in view of the considerations brought out above.

Vacation of Bikaner House

5720. SHRI BHEEKHA BHAI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bikaner House, in which the Central Power Commission was located, was to be vacated by the Government of India due to the shortage of accommodation in other houses of Rajasthan for officials and Ministers;

(b) is it a fact that the Government of Rajasthan is facing lot of difficulties in housing the ministers and officials due to the rush during important meetings with the Central Government and if so, whether any representation has been made by the Government Resident Commissioner or by the Government of Rajasthan in this regard; and

(c) action taken to vacate the Bikaner House and its area occupied by Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) to (c). The Government of Rajasthan has been requesting for the release of 'Bikaner House' on the ground that they require it for their own purposes, but owing to the prevailing acute shortage of Office accommodation for Central Government Offices in Delhi, it has not so far been possible for the Central Government to release this House. The State Government has been requested to allow

the Central Government to continue utilise this building for some more time.

Soil Conservation Programme

5721. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up massive programme of soil conservation to utilise this building for some more million in the current Plan; and

(b) if so, to what extent the results have been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a): Yes, Sir. The Government have taken up a large programme of Soil Conservation to treat an area of 6.52 million hectares during the Sixth Plan both under State and Central Sectors with an outlay of Rs. 433.21 crores.

(d) During first year of the Sixth Plan i.e. 1980-81, an area of 9.73 lakh hectares had been treated at a cost of Rs. 83.41 crores both under Central and State Sectors. During 1981-82 an area of 10.42 lakh hectares is expected to be treated at a cost of Rs. 89.69 crores.

Under the State Sector, programmes are concentrated on treating agricultural and non-agricultural lands through various agronomical, engineering and biological measures.

Against a physical target of 5.32 million hectares for the Sixth Plan under State Sector Programmes, an area of 8.65 lakh hectares has been treated at an expenditure of Rs. 68.38 crores during 1980-81.

During the Sixth Plan, the major effort has continued to be made under the State Sector for treating agricultural and non-agricultural lands while

special support from the Centre is being extended through the schemes of; (i) Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects; (ii) Integrated Watershed Management in the catchments of Flood Prone Rivers; (iii) Strengthening of Soil Survey Organisations; (iv) Control of Shifting Cultivation in the Union Territories; and (v) Strengthening of All India Soil and Land Use Survey Organisation.

Besides, to stabilise and increase aggregate production from rainfed areas, a Central scheme of Propagation of Water Conservation/Water Harvesting Technology is proposed to be taken up. In order to provide policy direction on matters concerning the care of soil health and to coordinate the programmes 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 the activities of the 26 State Land Use Boards.

Against the physical target of 11.9 lakh hectares for the Sixth Plan, an area of 1.08 lakh hectares has been treated during 1980-81 at a cost of Rs. 15.03 crores under the Central Schemes.

In addition, efforts are being made in treating agricultural and non-agricultural lands through the following scheme for which an outlay of Rs. 290 crores has been approved:

1. Soil, Water and Tree Conservation in the Himalayan Region.
2. Social Forestry including Rural Fuelwood Plantation.
3. Drought Prone Area Development.
4. Desert Development.

During 1980-81 on area of 3.63 lakh hectares has been treated under these schemes.

Corporation Status for Chandigarh

5723. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a corporation status has been demanded for Chandigarh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the people of Chandigarh have been deprived of an elected body to administer the Union Territory; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) There has been a demand from some quarters for corporation status for Chandigarh.

(b) At present there is no elected body for Chandigarh.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration to alter the present arrangements for administration of Chandigarh.

Ecological Imbalance due to Deforestation

5724. SHRI A. C. DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the ecological imbalance which has been created due to increasing deforestation in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the guidelines sent to various State Governments to check the felling of trees which is going on a large scale in certain States; and

(c) the details about the steps proposed to be taken by Government for restoring ecological balance in the country, particularly in the forest areas?