

contracts abroad. The value of these contracts secured is as follows:

Year	Value of Contracts (Rupees in Crores)
1978-79	63.85
1979-80	68.46
1980-81	29.64

(b) and (c). Yes Sir, The reasons for the setback generally are as follows:

(i) outbreak of hostilities between Iraq and Iran, which has affected developmental activities in Iraq;

(ii) stiff competition from South East Asian Countries particularly South Korean Companies, which are of a multinational nature and also enjoy a high degree of financial support and easy terms of credit from their Governments and Banks.

(iii) competition between Indian private sector companies and public sector undertakings.

(iv) higher rates of interest charged by Indian Banks on credits thus rendering NBCC tenders somewhat uncompetitive.

(v) lower productivity of Indian workers resulting in higher incidence of labour cost in comparison with other overseas labour such as those of South Korea etc.

The steps taken by the Corporation to improve the position are broadly as follows:—

(a) continuous and sustained tendering for overseas business.

(b) proper exercise of control and direction for development of business, in short streamlining the tendering system;

(c) sustained efforts to explore overseas business in the countries

other than Iraq and Libya, to which the Corporation has been restricting earlier.

As a result of the aforesaid measures, the Corporation has been able to develop overseas business to the tune of Rs. 92.63 crores during the year 1981-82. It is expected that with further marketing thrust in other countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain etc. overseas development works are likely to pick up progress.

#### Extinction of wild plants

663. SHRI MOHAMMAD ASRAR AHMAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that according to a study conducted by the Birbal Sahni Institute of Paleobotany, Lucknow, about 5000 useful wild plants are facing extinction due to denudation of forests; and

(b) if so, whether any steps are contemplated to identify those plant species and preserve them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

#### Contribution of Indian scientists in increasing wheat production

664. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a book "Environmental Science" (1978) published from Philadelphia, London, Toronto, it is stated that the increase in wheat production has been attributed mainly due to the extension workers and to Government for arranging high inputs in terms of irrigation and fertilizers, while there is no mention of contribution by Indian scientists; and

(b) if not, the practical contribution of Indian scientists in the increase of