

10. Scientific Panel on Dairy and Live-stock Products Technology.

11. Scientific Panel on Fisheries.

12. Scientific Panel on Agricultural Economics, Statistics and Marketing.

13. Scientific Panel on Agricultural Education.

14. Scientific Panel on Home Science.

15. Scientific Panel on Agronomy.

16. Scientific Panel on Agricultural Engineering.

17. Scientific Panel on Post Harvest Technology.

18. Scientific Panel on Microbiology.

19. Scientific Panel on Soil Science.

Memorandum regarding protection to Western Ghats

1131. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV:
SHRI M. RAMGOPAL REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a deputation from Kerala State has recently submitted a Memorandum for the protection of Western Ghat Forests (Calicut District) from wanton felling of trees in the area by a Coterie of Powerful People despite a Kerala State High Court Order for stopping felling of trees in that area; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction on the Memorandum and steps taken in regard thereto?

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

(b) The matter was taken up with the State Government. They have reported that action is being taken in accordance with the High Court order. They have denied any large scale destruction of virgin forests. Government of Kerala have been asked to take action under the relevant Central and State Acts for protection of forests.

Import of Fertilizers

1132. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to allow private parties to import certain types of fertilizers under OGL;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) alone had the right to import, distribute and fix the price of fertilizers uptill now; and

(c) if so, the reasons for departure from that policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) MMTC are the only channelized agency to import fertilizers on behalf of the Government. MMTC, however, had no role in regard to distribution and fixing the price of fertilizers. These functions are performed by the Government.

(c) The question does not arise.

Benefit to ICAR Staff

1133. SHRI HARISH KUMAR
GANGWAR:
DR. A. U. AZMI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government servants who opted for ICAR are not entitled amongst other benefits to telephone facility and retired servants Government accommodation etc.; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and corrective steps proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND