

(c) This project has been undertaken with the full cooperation of the State Governments who are given technical advice by this Ministry and the U.N.D.P. wherever necessary.

(d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5522/82].

### **E.E.C. Aid for Operation Flood Programme**

2280. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(e) whether European Commission has refused to recommend to the E.E.C. Council the Indian request for increasing aid for the Operation Flood Programme and if so, the reasons thereof ;

(b) what are the expected targets of import of skimmed milk powder and butter oil till 1985 under this scheme;

(c) whether Government have requested more aid from E.E.C. Council for Operation Flood Programme ; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the E.E.C. Council on this request ?

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

(b) The European Economic Community has agreed to supply 1,86,000 MT skim milk powder and 76,000 MT butter oil over a period of six years at the rate of 31,000 MT skim milk powder and 12,700 MT butter oil annually commencing from 1978 for the Operation Flood-I Project.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The European Economic Community has not yet made known its reaction to the proposal.

### **Wanton Destruction of Agarwood Plant**

2281. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Oil Refinery, Gauhati has been purchasing illegally agarwood for sending the same to Delhi for being taken by the Union Ministers to West Asia for pleasing Arab Sheikhs while visiting them and agarwood oil worth Rs. 5 lakhs was recently seized by the Assam Police Bureau of Economic offences ;

(b) Whether Assam Government have stopped leasing out agarwood forests since 1978 in view of the wanton destruction of the rare plant ; and

(c) if so, details of the illegal purchase made so far, their disposal and steps taken to ensure the non-destruction of the rare plant ?

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

### **Steps taken to eliminate Fungus from Food Articles**

2282. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study to find out that fungus in food is prevailing ;