

Implementation of National Forest Policy

1136. SHRI H.N. BAHUGUNA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the national forest policy is being flouted according to report of AEPRO and if so, the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken ;

(b) whether Government propose to set up a task force consisting of voluntary agencies and motivated individuals to ensure strict implementation of the forest policy ; and

(c) whether Government propose to take immediate steps to protect fast diminishing forests which are raising many other related socio-economic problems ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) No report published by AFPRO has been received by the Government so far.

(b) There is already a high level body called the Central Board of Forestry, which also has non-official representation. Besides, the Parliament and the State Legislatures look into the implementation of Government policies. Apart from this, the Governments of the States/Union Territories have been advised to set up advisory bodies at various levels. Hence, it is not proposed to set up a separate Task Force for this purpose, at present.

(c) The Government is conscious of the need for the protection, regeneration and development of the forests of the country and is already endeavouring to get results.

Failure to Control Pests and Develop Pest Resistant Varieties

1137. SHRI H.N. BAHUGUNA :

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reports of recent workshop at Kanpur regarding annual loss of Rs. 1000 crores due to failure to control pests or develop suitable pest resistant varieties (Patriot dated 18 June, 1984) ;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is poor production of pulses despite claims of 'breakthrough' from IARI ;

(c) whether Government will restrain scientists from making premature claims; and

(d) whether Government propose to bring out a publication giving list of all pulse varieties identified' and released so far with yields claimed and those obtained in the field ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government's attention has been drawn to the said reports.

(b) The Indian Agricultural Research Institute has never claimed a breakthrough in pulse production. However, improved varieties possessing better yield potential have been developed.

(c) No such instance of premature claims have come to the notice of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

(d) Yes, Sir. Technical bulletins have been prepared by the I. C. A. R. on pulse varieties and production technologies for the benefit of farmers and extension workers. Publication on crop varieties, including the pulses which have been released and notified in the country upto 1983 has been brought out by the State Farms Corporation of