

Training, New Delhi, an autonomous Organisation set up by Government, is operating a scheme since 1963 called "National Science Talent Search Scheme" to encourage science talent among children in the country.

(b) A maximum of 350 scholars are awarded the scholarship every year on the basis of a written examination and interview. Any boy or girl studying in the final year of the higher secondary school or equivalent school can appear for the examination provided the applicant had secured at least 55 per cent marks in the aggregate in the science subjects in the preceding annual examination. A student can appear only once in the test. The examination consists of a science aptitude test, an essay test, a project report on a scientific topic and interview. The venues of the examination in each State are decided in consultation with the Director of Education concerned. Usually examinations are held at the district headquarters. After selection for the award, the candidate must join a degree course in basic or agricultural sciences. Each winner of the award will have to give an undertaking that he or she will study in a recognised and approved university or college. The award will commence from the first year of the B.Sc. course and will continue till the end of M.Sc. course provided the scholar gets first division in the B.Sc. After the M.Sc. course, the scholar will have to face an Interview Committee for continuing the scholarship for the Ph.D. degree which will be for 3 years. As regards agricultural sciences, the award will be given from the first year of the degree course and will continue till the end of the Ph.D. The rate of the scholarships are:—

(1) B.Sc.	Rs. 150 per month.
(2) M.Sc.	Rs. 200 per month.
(3) Doctorate level	Rs. 300 per month. In addition Rs. 1,500 will be given for contingent expenditure.

Students selected for the award will be provided special courses at Summer Schools. The examination is being conducted in the State languages since 1968.

The scheme is quite popular and the first batch of students has reached Ph.D level.

National Plan for Forestry

3896. SHRI NIMBALKAR:
SHRI K. KODANDA RAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a National Plan for Forestry; and

(b) if so, the salient points thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) and (b). Forestry is a State subject. However, the Ministry of Agriculture coordinates all the Plan Development Schemes in the forestry sector.

There are three main objectives in the Fourth Five Year Plan namely to increase the productivity of forests, to link up forest development with various forest based industries and to develop forests as a support to rural economy. This is being achieved through 21 State Forestry Schemes, one Centrally Sponsored Scheme and four Central Sector Schemes.

Difficulty in Grain Trade take over

3897. SHRI D. K. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news appeared in the *Hindustan Times* dated 28th October, 1972 under the caption "Grain trade take over difficult now, Shinde", and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government on it?