

- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Does not arise.

Office of Freight Investigation Bureau at Cochin

2198. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether a final decision has been taken about the setting up of a Branch Office of the Freight Investigation Bureau at Cochin;
- (b) if so, the decision taken;
- (c) if not, the reasons why the decision has not been taken so far; and
- (d) when it is likely to take a final decision?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMLA-PATI TRIPATHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Branch Office of the Freight Investigation Bureau has already been set up at Cochin and has been functioning since February, 1973.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Action against Director of Aralam Farm for Filing Petition against Government of Kerala

2199. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Short Notice Question No. 5 on 30th August, 1973 regarding the crisis in Aralam Farm and state:

(a) the action taken against the official of the Farm for filing writ-petition against the State Government of Kerala; and

(b) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) The

Director of the Farm who filed the writ petition against the Government of Kerala, has since been transferred from the farm. A Committee of officers of the Central and State Government has been set up to examine the working of the Central State Farm, Aralam. One of the terms of reference of the Committee is 'to examine the administrative practices adopted by the management of the Farm with special reference to the purchase of materials, sale of agricultural produce, personnel policy including recruitment, disciplinary action etc.' Further action, if any, against the concerned officer will be considered and taken in the light of the findings of the Committee.

(b) Does not arise.

Steps to Conservation of Forest and Grassy Lands

2200. SHRI RAMKANWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to make special efforts to conserve forests and grassy lands and save the country from soil erosion; and

(b) progress, if any, made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the recent years the concept of soil and water conservation has undergone a radical change. To derive conservation has undergone a radical change. To derive maximum protective and productive benefits from such measures, the programme will be undertaken on a watershed basis whereby all kinds of lands i.e. agriculture, forest and lands would be treated for conserving soil and raise their productivity.

This programme will be executed in the State. Centrally sponsored and