

strengthened to intensify research work for evolving high yielding and disease resistant strains.

Cultivation of Japanese Mint in Kerala

1076. Shri A. K. Gopalan: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got a scheme to cultivate Japanese mint;

(b) whether the soil and climatic conditions of Kerala are suitable for the purpose; and

(c) whether Government propose to cultivate it on a large scale in Kerala?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) A pilot scheme to cultivate Japanese mint on an area of 5 acres during 1965-66 is being formulated by the Kerala Government.

(b) Studies undertaken so far have shown that the crop can be cultivated in certain parts of the Kerala State.

(c) Large scale cultivation of mint in Kerala will be considered if success is achieved in the pilot scheme.

Soil Conservation

1077. Shri A. K. Gopalan: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allotted in the Third Five Year Plan for soil conservation work to the Kerala State;

(b) the amount utilized so far;

(c) the amount that has lapsed;

(d) whether Government are aware that the State nominees trained in soil conservation work had been put on jobs not connected with Soil Conservation work; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to rectify the position?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Rs. 120.00 lakhs.

(b) Rs. 55.80 lakhs (Upto 31st March, 1965).

(c) The State Government do not anticipate any lapse of funds provided for Soil Conservation during the Third Five-Year Plan.

(d) The State Government has informed that out of 55 personnel so far trained in soil conservation, 23 were posted in the regular Soil Conservation Department and four were appointed in the Forest Department because forestry and soil conservation are allied subjects and knowledge of soil conservation is essential to Foresters also.

25 persons were posted in the Agriculture Department because the services of trained personnel were required for Extension work for guiding and advising properly the cultivators on soil conservation and soil science. The State Government consider the posting of such personnel in Agriculture Department as indispensable.

Three Diploma Holders in Civil Engineering who had received training in soil conservation had to be reverted to the Public Works Department for want of vacancies in the former Soil Conservation Section of the Agriculture Department.

(e) Under the existing pattern of Central financial assistance, State Governments are entitled to 50 per cent subsidy on the pay and allowances and the expenditure incurred on the study tours of trainees. In order to ensure that the trained personnel are utilised for soil conservation work, the aforesaid subsidy is given to the State Governments on the production of a certificate that the persons concerned were actually put on this work after completion of their training. No subsidy is paid in respect of the personnel who are not put on soil conservation work.

Eviction of Peasants from Forests in Kerala

1078. Shri A. K. Gopalan: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Trichur and Chalakudy Forest Divi-