

SHINDE) : (a) 1.07 million hectares of forests area has been lost due to release for River Valley Projects, Cultivation, Hydel works and industries. A statement showing the Forest area lost for various purposes from 1951 to 1966 is laid on the Table of House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1579/69].

(b) "Forest" is included in the State list of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. However, the Central Board of Forestry of which Minister for Food and Agriculture is the Chairman has recommended time and again that encroachment in any form upon forests should be prevented and that the existing area be augmented to bring it to the prescribed percentage viz. 33% by consolidation of holdings, acquisition of private forests and by transferring as forests available lands such as waste lands, Panchayat Samiti lands, ravines, canal banks etc. As a consequence, the forest area has increased from 73.44 million hectares in 1951-52 to 75.35 million hectares in 1966-67 in spite of 1.07 million hectares having been released for river valley projects, cultivation etc.

Meetings of the Central Board of Forestry

2617. SHRI SATYA NARAIN SINGH :
SHRI E. K. NAYANAR :
SHRI BHAGABAN DAS :
SHRI P. GOPALAN :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the meetings of the Central Board of Forestry are not being held regularly every year since 1959 as was decided by the Board ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that there were no records of meetings of the Board ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The meetings could not be held regularly every year as considerable time is taken by the State Governments, which play host, to finalise the dates as convenient to them as well as make arrangements for the meetings.

(c) No, Sir.

Meetings of the Central Board of Forestry

2618. SHRI NAMBIAR :
SHRI P. P. ESTHOF :
SHRI GANESH GHOSH :
SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the names of those members who attended the 4th and 5th meetings of the Central Board of Forestry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : A statement showing the names of the members who attended the 4th & 5th Meetings of the Central Board of Forestry held in 1957 and 1959 respectively is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1580/69].

Code for Checking communal writings in Press

2619. SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :
SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINGH :
SHRI BHAGABAN DAS :
SHRI P. GOPALAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 10-point draft code of the Press Council of India to check communal writings in the press has been approved ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE