

Creation of Awareness among Farmers

3556. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to create awareness of the basic concepts, potentials and recent developments in Agricultural implements and biotechnology among the farmers in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Various Government departments and agencies such as Department of Biotechnology, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Department of Agriculture and Cooperation are supporting activities to create awareness about scientific concepts and development. To cite some examples, biofertilizers, biopesticides, sericulture, vermicomposting, tissue culture, carcas utilization etc. have major component of training, awareness building and education. There are National Demonstration Programmes, Operational Research Projects and Institute-Village linkage Programmes. Training is given to nearly one million village artisans at Krishi Vigyan Kendras (Farm Science Centres) and some Central and State Government Organizations. These training programmes are from one week to few weeks. Every year about 1000 trainings are organized for such persons related to agricultural machinery and about 10,000 persons are trained. A large number of farm implements for tillage, sowing, inter culture, harvesting, threshing and post-harvest operations have been developed by ICAR and State Agricultural Universities and 26 of these have been adopted by the farmers. Four Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes were set up at Buddi (M.P.), Hissar (Haryana), Anantpur (A.P.) and Biswanath Chariali, Distt. Sonikpur (Assam) for imparting training in the selection, operation, maintenance, repairs and management of farm machines. Special training programmes are being organized for "use of different agricultural machinery" at Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal (M.P.).

Efforts have been made to transfer technologies to the rural people in the areas of agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, human nutrition, food processing and herbal medicine. Use of mass media like radio and television network, training and visit programmes run by Central and State governments are creating awareness for use of modern agricultural machinery. Publications are also distributed amongst farmers on new biotechnology packages alongwith live demonstrations.

National Waterway No. 3

3557 SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the activities proposed to be taken on NW-3 during the current financial year and provisions made for the purpose;

(b) whether the Regional office at Kochi is provided with sufficient man power for looking after the work;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken for filling up the vacant posts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The activities proposed on National Waterway No. 3 and the budget provision made during the current financial year are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) The regional office at Kochi is provided with sufficient man power for looking after the work.

Statement

Activity/Scheme	Budget Provision in 1998-99 (Rs. Crores)
1. Construction and Maintenance of Locks	0.50
2. Land acquisition for terminals	0.80
3. Capital dredging including land Acquisition for widening of Canal	4.00
4. Annual maintenance activities	1.50
5. Acquisition of survey Vessels	0.40
6. Procurement of survey equipment	0.30
7. Construction and maintenance of terminals	2.00
8. 24 hrs. navigational aids	0.30
9. Bank protection	0.30
10. Acquisition of Petrol Boats	0.10
11. Pollution control and EMP	0.10
Total	Rs. 10.30 crores

Hydel Power Station at Mananthavady

3558. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :