

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the decision on these recommendations is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Necessary orders implementing the major recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission relating to pay structure, replacement scales corresponding to the pre-revised scales of pay applicable in the Central Government, the grant of replacement scales of pay higher than their existing ones for certain common categories of staff and specified posts in Group 'B', 'C' and 'D' in various Ministries, Departments and Union Territories, age of superannuation, House Rent Allowance, City Compensatory Allowance, Transport Allowance, Travelling Allowance on tour/transfer, Pension and family pension, etc. which affect and are of relevance to the large majority of Central Government employees have already been issued. Some of the recommendations on which necessary orders are yet to be issued relate to certain location-specific or department-specific allowances and special benefits, grant of higher replacement scales of pay for individual Group 'A' posts and/or upgradation of Group 'A' posts, pay scales of members of DANICS and DANIPS, introduction of time-bound promotions on an assured basis, restructuring of cadres, etc. These recommendations are in various stages of processing in consultation with the Ministries/Departments involved. Specified proposals to facilitate to implementation of some of the department-specific recommendations relating to pay scales or restructuring of existing cadres are also awaited from the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments.

(b) and (c) All the Ministries/Departments are involved in implementing the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission and the information called for is not centrally maintained.

#### **Tissue Culture by TERA**

61. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of a study recently conducted by the Tata Energy Research Institute on adopting Tissue Culture to save the endangered forest tracts of the North-East region;

(b) whether the tree species found in North-East region like bamboo, eucalyptus, teak, pine, oak, cassia etc. have long gestation periods thereby creating scarcity of planting material which involve conventional multiplication techniques;

(c) if so, whether Tissue Culture can help raising the planting material in abundance and all through the year;

(d) whether equally remunerative operations like herbal plantation can be dove-tailed with the Tissue Culture system;

(e) if so, whether the Centre would establish experimental farms in North-East region; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Tata Energy Research Institute has a regional office in North East for tackling problems of the region. Tissue culture studies are being conducted for mass multiplication of a number of plant species including bamboo, which are growing in the North Eastern region.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The conventional techniques are being used to multiply the important tree species of the region. However, Plant Tissue Culture methods can be used to supplement the conventional techniques. Through the use of plant Tissue Culture large quantities of planting material which are true to type can be produced in a short duration, and can be made available throughout the year, by duly adjusting the production time according to the planting season.

(d) Plant Tissue Culture can be used for generating large quantities of planting material of elite herbal plant species.

(e) The Department of Biotechnology is exploring the possibility, in consultation with Regional experts, of the application of Plant Tissue Culture for multiplication of elite planting material including medicinal plant species in the North Eastern Region.

(f) Does not arise.

#### **Ravine Areas**

62. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any survey on the total ravine areas in the country;

(b) if so, the date on which the survey was conducted and the total area found as ravine in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the details of schemes prepared/proposal to be made for the development of agriculture in those ravine areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) No specific survey has been carried out to ascertain the total ravine areas in the country. However, as per the report of the Working Group set up (1972) by the Ministry of Home Affairs, there is a ravine areas of 36.69 lakh hac. in the country spread over 9 States as per details given in the statement enclosed.