

The higher rate than Rs. 6000 per hectare has been approved by Government of India in respect of States mentioned at (i) above, in view of the difficult terrain and other specific problems in the areas.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala has requested to raise the cost of construction of field channels to Rs. 10,000 per hectare in July, 1996 and now (March, 1999) to Rs. 15,000 per hectare. In the matter, no decision has been taken by Government of India.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

3305. SHRI K.S. RAO :

SHRI U.V. KRISHNA RAJU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras functioning in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the State Government has requested for setting up of some more Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) There are 16 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) functioning in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The State Government has requested for setting up of KVKs in seven districts viz., Nellore, Prakasam, Adilabad, Krishna, Khamam, Nizamabad and Cuddapah.

(d) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has a proposal to strengthen the existing Zonal Agricultural Research Station (ZARS) to take up the additional functions of KVK in Nellore, Prakasam, and Adilabad districts during the IX Five Year Plan. The establishment of KVKs in the remaining four districts will depend upon the availability of additional financial resources to the Council for the purpose.

Fund for Assam

3306. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Assam for the development of backward areas of Assam during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) There is no proposal pending with Planning Commission for development of backward areas of Assam. However, Planning Commission supplements the efforts of the State Government in ameliorating the special problems faced by certain areas through special Central Assistance under Special Area Programmes, including Hill Area Development Programme, Border Area Development Programme, North Eastern Council and Tribal Sub-Plan.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Burning of Indian Flag

3307. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian National Flag was burnt during the Republic Parade celebrations of India in U.K.;

(b) if so, whether the Union Govt. has received any report about this incident;

(c) if so, whether the U.K. Police did not take any action while Indian National Flag was burnt in their presence;

(d) if so, whether India lodged any protest to British Govt. in this regard; and

(e) if not, main reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The British Police upon being queried have informed the Indian High Commission in London that "unfortunately the burning of a national flag is not an offence in the U.K."

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.