

The scope of the Schemes of the North Eastern Council will include major schemes of inter-State benefit located in individual States in addition to schemes of Inter-State character.

Functioning of SFCI

2101. SHRI SIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI) has improved its working and profitability during 1996-97 in comparison to the last three years ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Government propose to create the post of Chairman-cum-Managing Director in SFCI ;

(d) if so, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) There has been some improvement in the working and profitability of State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI) in the last three years, including in 1996-97. While the profit for 1996-97 was estimated at about Rs. 2.55 crores, the final picture has not emerged as the accounts have not yet been finalised. Details regarding physical and financial achievements of SFCI for the period from 1993-94 to 1996-97 are given in the attached Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The present arrangement of a part time chairman and a full time Managing Director is considered suitable for SFCI

Statement

Year-wise profit/loss of SFCI since 1993-94

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Profit (+)/Loss (-)
1993-94	(-) 176.44
1994-95	(+)281.67
1995-96	(+)117.47
1996-97	(+)255.31 (Estimated)

Total production of SFCI since 1993-94

(Qty. in lakh quintals)

Year	Kharif	Rabi	Total
1993-94	1.99	1.78	3.77
1994-95	3.10	2.22	5.32
1995-96	3.25	2.53*	5.78
1996-97	3.20	2.03	5.23
		Estimated	Estimated

* Note : Including 0.68 lakh quintals tomato produced by a private party at Suratgarh and Ladhowal farms.

Residential Schools for SC/ST/OBC Students

2102. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJBHAI
CHIKHALIA :
SHRIMATI PURNIMA VARMA :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of residential schools for scheduled Csttes/Scheduled Tribes/OBC in the country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise ;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to set up such more schools in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria fixed for the same ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) A Statement showing the number of residential schools for SCs and STs set up/ sanctioned/ assisted by the Ministry of Welfare in different States/ UTs is attached. No residential school has been set up/sanctioned/assisted in respect of OBCs by the Ministry of Welfare.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details will be finalised, keeping in view the proposals recieved from the State Govts./UT Administrations/ Non Governmental Organisations.

(d) Question does not arise.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of residential schools for SC's set up/sanctioned/assisted	No. of residential schools/Ashram Schools/Educational Complex for STs set up/sanctioned/assisted
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25	04
2.	Assam	—	02
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	07
4.	Bihar	12	10
5.	Gujarat	01	05
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	01
7.	Karnataka	26	02
8.	Kerala	—	03
9.	Manipur	01	01
10.	Meghalaya	—	47
11.	Maharashtra	—	01
12.	Madhya Pradesh	15	10
13.	Nagaland	—	03
14.	Orissa	07	24
15.	Rajasthan	07	13
16.	Tamil Nadu	03	01
17.	Tripura	02	—
18.	Uttar Pradesh	39	10
19.	West Bengal	08	04

[Translation]

Extinction of Medicinal Plants

2103. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the medicinal herbs found in the forests of Bihar and other states are on the verge of extinction;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Although a number of medicinal plants in the country are declining in the wild and some of them are critically endangered but they cannot be considered to be on the verge of extinction. The main reason for the declining status of these plants is their wanton exploitation for trade.

(c) The steps taken for the conservation of medicinal plants include :

- i. collection of wild plant species covered under Schedule VI of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 from any forest land or specified area has been banned by law.

- ii. Export is prohibited of 53 plants or plant portions and their derivatives obtained from the wild covered under Schedule 2 Appendix 2 of the book titled "ITC (HC) classifications of Export and Import Items".

- iii. Export of plants other than the above 53 plants requires Legal Procurement Certificate (IPC) from Regional Dy. Director, Wildlife Preservation, Ministry of Environment and Forests or Chief Conservator of Forests or Deputy Conservator of Forests of the State concerned from where these plants have been procured.

- iv. The cultivated varieties of the 53 plants/plant portions referred to above can be allowed for export subject to production of certificate of cultivation and a CITES permit, wherever applicable.

- v. The export of plants and plant portions are allowed only through the seven major ports at Bombay, Calcutta, Cochin, Delhi, Tuticorin, Madras and Amritsar.

- vi. Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities whenever information of illegal trading in wild plants reaches them.

- vii. Inter-departmental coordination to control illegal trade has been enhanced with other enforcement organisations like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast Guards etc. Training Programmes on wildlife enforcement and implementation are also