

Regional Office, Bhopal to approve the diversion of forest land between 05 to 20 hectares; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Government of India has been receiving requests from various State Governments to delegate power to State Governments under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest areas. But, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 does not permit delegation of power to the State Governments.

(b) and (c) Revision of delegation of power to Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional Offices, is under consideration of this Ministry.

Fake Degrees

3761. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a racket of fake degrees has come to light in Chandra Sekhar Agricultural University in Kanpur in January, 1997:

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard:

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) the action proposed to curb this menace?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and the same will be placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha in due course.

Computers to Stop Dissection of Animals

3762. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Animal Welfare Board of India propose to introduce sophisticated software models of computers to stop dissection of animals in schools;

(b) if so, the time by which these computers are likely to be introduced;

(c) whether the matter has also been discussed with the State Governments;

(d) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto;

(e) whether any State Welfare Board is likely to be set up; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the main functions of the Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Introduction of the software model of computers in schools to stop dissection has been recommended by the Animal Welfare Board of India to the State Governments.

(b) No decision to switch on to the computers has yet been taken by the Ministry of Human Resource Development which is the implementing Ministry for this purpose.

(c) The Chairman of Animal Welfare Board of India has addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the State Governments.

(d) Most of the State and Central Education Boards have indicated that due to resource crunch and non-availability of computer equipments readily they will not be in a position to switch on to the computer immediately. They have also expressed that valuable experience gained through dissection can not be fully substituted by computer models.

(e) and (f) State Advisory Boards for animal welfare have been established in 24 States/Union Territories. The main functions of these Boards are : advise the State Governments in all matters concerning animal welfare, guide the activities of Animal Welfare Organisations in the respective States and to provide financial assistance if possible, liaise with the Animal Welfare Board of India in the enforcement of the legislations concerning animal welfare, and to encourage the formation of public opinion against the infliction of unnecessary pain or sufferings to animals.

[Translation]

Sugar Mills in Madhya Pradesh

3763. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether notice has been issued by the Central Pollution Control Board to sugar mills in Ratlam district in Madhya Pradesh to close the mills for defying the rules;

(b) whether any action has been taken by the Government after getting their response;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?