

- The monitoring of ground water quality is an urgent need to ascertain the status and effect due to episodal pollution. This may be carried out by the industry and CPCB. In the event of deterioration of quality of water in the wells used by the villagers the industry needs to provide drinking water under the supervision of the district authority.

(d) To control the storm water passing through the premises of the industry and entering into village pond, a bund at the cost of the industry was immediately constructed at upstream area to avoid repetition of such incidence. State Government has also directed to empty the village pond and to make it dry by way of pumping back the water to the factory area. The industry is regularly monitored thereafter to keep watch on control of pollution by the industry.

[Translation]

Development of Spices etc.

4779. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether no development schemes are being formulated in case of spices, coconut and tassar silk in Northern India especially in Bihar which is leading in the production of all these things;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the production of coriander, cumin seeds, aniseeds, connamon, turmeric and chillies is also not being taken as business proportion;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate any development scheme in this regard in order to turn such production into big business so that the farmers are benefited; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :
(a) and (b) For development of spices, coconut and tassar silk in Bihar and other potential States in Northern India, following schemes were implemented during 8th Plan :

(1) Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for Development of Spices;

(2) Programmes of the Coconut Development Board, namely, area expansion under coconut and establishment and maintenance of DSP farms and nurseries. The coconut Development Board also has its Regional Centre at Patna in Bihar;

(3) The Central Silk Board supplement the efforts of the State Government in the implementation of various tassar sericulture development programmes in the Northern India including Bihar through creation of necessary infrastructure and also R & D support.

(c) The cultivation of seed spices, such as coriander, cumin and aniseed is taken up mostly by small and marginal farmers.

(d) and (e) The Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for development of Spices is proposed to be continued during 9th Plan. Under this scheme assistance to small and marginal farmers and other weaker sections is proposed to be continued as a promotional measure to increase production and productivity of spices in all potential States/UTs.

[English]

Status of Women

4780. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindu Law Committee has submitted a report on the status of women;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein;

(c) whether the Committee was set up to volve a uniform code for the Hindu Law;

(d) if so, its precise constitution and the terms of reference; and

(e) the reaction of the Government on the recommendations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Wage Revision of HFCL and FCI

4781. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for denial of Wage revision to the employees of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited and Fertilizer Corporation of India from the due date i.e., w.e.f. 1.1.1992;

(b) whether they have been denied the revision of D.A. rates too;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to revise the wages and D.A. of the employees w.e.f. the due date of revision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAMOLA) : (a) to (c) In November, 1992 the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) declared Fertilizer Corporation India Ltd. (FCI) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) as sick companies. Being sick companies, according to Government guidelines for revision of pay and other allowances, including Dearness Allowance on revised scales, effective from 1.1.92, for employees other than unionised workers, FCI and HFC have to await final decision of the BIFR on their revival. The revival package so approved should include enhanced liability on proposed salary revision. For wage revision of workers, FCI and HFC are unable to meet the conditions in the guidelines for the purpose namely, no increase in labour cost per physical unit of output, internal generation of funds, etc. Government guidelines do not provide for any budgetary support to meet this enhanced liability for all categories of employees.

(d) The expert group constituted to reformulate revival packages for HFC and FCI (which were approved in principle by the Government in April, 1995) from the stand point of funding by financial institutions (FIs) has submitted its report. The reformulated revival packages for FCI and HFC would, *inter-alia*, include issues like extent and effective date for wage/salary revision.

[Translation]

Scrapping of Forest Act, 1980

4782. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals have been received by the Central Government for scrapping the Forest Act, 1980 because a number of works in the tribal areas have been held up due to this;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Freedom Fighters Pension

4783. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to

Unstarred Question No. 2649, dated March, 11, 1997 and state:

(a) the number of parents of Freedom Fighters getting Pension;

(b) whether there is any proposal to make changes in the rules especially when there is no possibility of the parents of Freedom Fighters being alive so far; and

(c) whether the Government consider the adopted persons and the dependent kins of such dead and unmarried freedom fighters eligible for getting pension or other assistance or facility whose age is fifty years now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : The question seems to refer to the reply given to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2469 for 11.3.1997.

(a) Powers have been delegated to the Pension Disbursing Authorities to transfer pension to eligible dependents. The information sought is not maintained at the Central level.

(b) and (c) No such proposal are under consideration of the Government at present.

Demand of Fertilizers

4784. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the requirement of 225 million tonnes of foodgrains in the country by the year 2002 a large quantity of fertilizers would be required;

(b) if so, the assistance made by the Government in this regard;

(c) the details of consumption of fertilizers during the last years; and

(d) the break up of quantity of indigenous and imported fertilizers required to meet the increased demand during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The Working Group on Fertilizers for the Ninth Five Year Plan, for a tentative food production target of 220 million tonnes, has made the following demand projections