

new Bombay as replacement for the present training ship 'RAJEDNRA' has already commenced.

In the case of Seaman, the three Government Training Establishments were closed down between 1983 and 1985 in pursuance of the recommendations of the Nanda Committee, as the availability of Seamen was in excess of the requirements of the Indian fleet. Government are reviewing the availability of trained Seamen with a view to determine whether there is need for starting a Seamen Training Establishment.

[*Translation*]

Methods of Using Insecticides

6763. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether insecticides can be used to protect mustard crop from affid (Lah) insects:

(b) if not, the details of loss to mustard crop and financial loss, as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that China has controlled this menace by using alternative methods including biological control methods;

(d) whether this technology is being used or proposed to be used in the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) In China, aphids are controlled by adopting Integrated Pest Management encompassing cultural, mechanical biological control methods and need based use of insecticides.

(d) and (e). Use of bio-control agents as an element of Integrated Pest Management has been successfully tried in the case of mustard and some other crops. Integrated Pest Management is the main thrust of plant protection strategy adopted by the Government.

Promotion to Extra Departmental Employees

6764. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of E.D. Department of Posts and Telegraphs Department are not promoted on the merit basis and are not treated as the employees of Posts and Telegraphs cadre;

(b) whether there are certain rules which prohibit the employees above the age of 42 years to appear in the departmental examination for promotion;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the remedial measures being taken by Government to release the rules in this regard to help the aged employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Extra-departmental agents are selected for Group 'D' posts on the basis of a qualifying test and seniority. They are also promoted as postmen on the basis of a test, part of the vacancies being filled by seniority and part by merit. Extra-departmental agents consti-

tute a separate category of the work-force of the Department, different from regular employees.

(b) At present the age limit for extra-departmental agents appearing for departmental examination is 35 years. For candidates belonging to SC/ST the age limit is 40 years.

(c) The upper age limit has been prescribed with a view to making them eligible for reasonable pensionary benefits on their eventual retirement from Government service. Moreover, the concept of an upper age limit for recruitment is a normal condition insisted upon in case of all appointments in Government

(d) Does not arise.

Trees Auctioned by Central Agricultural Farms

6765. SHRI SHOPAT SINGH

MAKKASAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether green trees were auctioned for felling in the Central Agricultural Farms of Suratgarh, Sardargarh and Jaitsar.

(b) if so, the number of trees auctioned during the last three years and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the income accrued from sale of green trees in these agricultural farms?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) to (c). Overmatured trees requiring replacement with fresh planting at Central State Farms, Suratgarh, Sardargarh and Jetsar were auctioned with the approval of the Government of Rajasthan. The number of trees auctioned and income accrued thereon are as per statement attached.

STATEMENT

| Name of the Farm | Year | No. of Trees Sold | Income |
|--------------------------------|---------|-------------------|--------|
| Central State Farm Suratgarh | 1986-87 | 5939 | 29.10 |
| | 1987-88 | 1301 | 10.09 |
| | 1988-89 | 1262 | 12.55 |
| Central State Farm, Sardargarh | 1986-87 | — | — |
| | 1987-88 | 2995 | 25.43 |
| | 1988-89 | 470 | 4.92 |
| Central State Farm, Jetsar | 1986-87 | 2966 | 26.89 |
| | 1987-88 | 1624 | 13.83 |
| | 1988-89 | 327 | 2.93 |