

Development of Sports in Kerala

*194. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government has submitted any scheme for the development of sports in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal has been examined by an Expert Committee set up by the Department. It was felt that instead of having its own special projects at the cost of the Centre, the State Government should have schemes which are complementary to the existing schemes of the Central Government and Sports Authority of India, in order to derive maximum benefit for realising the common objective. Since the total allocation for sports in the VII Plan was only Rs. 200.00 crores, it was not found possible for the Central Government to finance a single project of any State Government, costing as much as Rs. 107.54 crores.

The State Government of Kerala was advised accordingly.

Sathya Sain Institute of Higher Learning, Anantpur

*195. PROF. SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government or the UGC are giving any assistance to the Sathya

Sain Institute of Higher Learning, Anantpur (Andhra Pradesh); if so, the details thereof;

(b) the nature and extent of the control of the Union Government or UGC over the Institute;

(c) whether the teachers of the Institute have been representing for a long time to the authorities concerned for their various grievances; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) The Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Anantpur, was provided assistance of Rs. 65.38 lakhs in the Sixth Plan and Rs. 195.09 lakhs in the Seventh Plan for its development activities by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

(b) In terms of Section 3 of the UGC Act, the Central Government by notification issued on 10th November, 1981, declared the Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Anantpur as an Institution deemed to be university. The Institute is administered by Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning Trust, an autonomous entity with its own Governing Body, Academic Council, Finance Committee and other authorities prescribed under the Rules. The Officers of the Institute include the Vice-Chancellor, Director, Deans of Faculties, Registrar and Treasurer. There is one representative each of the Central Government and UGC on the Governing Body and one on the Finance Committee. The Rules of the Institute were approved by Government of India and cannot be amended without its prior approval. The Central Government also has the right to cause an in-

spection or inquiry in respect of academic or financial matters of the Institute. Development assistance is provided by the UGC on the basis of the report of the Review Committee appointed for this purpose.

(c) and (d). Representations have been received for payment of revised UGC scales of pay to the teachers of the Institute, and for increased terminal benefits. The Institute has informed that as an autonomous body which does not receive any maintenance grant from Government it has formulated its own scales of pay, which were revised in December, 1989, has a Contributory Provident Fund and also provides gratuity terminal benefit.

Depletion of Forest Areas

*196. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any estimate of the total forest areas getting depleted in every State every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the scheme presently being drawn up and implemented by Government to conserve the forests; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard in the Seventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOR-

ESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b). According to the studies conducted by the Forest Survey of India with the help of Satellite Imagery, the annual rate of depletion of forest cover in the country during the period 1981-83 to 1985-87 was 47,675 ha. The Statewise details are given in the attached statement.

(c) and (d). Conservation of forests is being done by protection of forests and reforestation of degraded forest areas.

For protection, Forest (Conservation) Act was enacted in 1980 to check diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. The Act has been made more stringent by an amendment of 1988. Also, the National Forest Policy 1988 lays more emphasis on conservation of forests. There are specific provisions for protection of forests from grazing, fires and encroachment. Besides, alternate sources of energy, wood substitution and import of timber are encouraged to conserve forests. In addition, guidelines are issued to State/UT Governments from time to time for protection and conservation of forests and wildlife. Some of these relate to avoiding felling of natural forests, ban on fellings in the hills above 1,000 meters, and setting apart 4 per cent of the geographical area as protection area.

Wasteland development programme is being implemented for reforestation of degraded land within and outside forest lands and restoration of ecological balance.