

2

3

Centrally-sponsored Schemes

(1) Social forestry including rural fuel-wood plantations	5000.00	850.00
(2) Soil Water and Tree Conservation in Himalayas (SOILWATCH)	1500.00	195.00

Shifting the Headquarters of Bay of Bengal Programme Committee

*234. SHRI M. RAMGOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at its first meeting of the Bay of Bengal Programme Committee held recently at Colombo the Sri Lanka Government has proposed that the headquarters of the Committee be shifted from Madras to Colombo;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no official representative from India was present at the meeting and if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the proposed shifting will hamper the progress of small fishermen of Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to counter the move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

A Regional Project on Small Scale Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal region was established by FAO in 1979 with headquarters at Madras.

2. This Project was re-named as Bay of Bengal Programme. The Programme has an Advisory Committee consisting of five participating countries, namely, Sri Lanka, India, Bangla Desh, Thailand and Malaysia, and other international agencies.

3. At the Sixth Meeting of the Advisory Committee in the first week of December, 1981 at Colombo, Sri Lanka offered to host the headquarters of the Bay of Bengal Programme. This offer was reiterated by Sri Lanka before the first meeting of the Bay of Bengal Committee who accepted it.

4. Due to pre-occupations with the Parliament Session, no official representative from India could attend any of the two meetings

5. The aims of the Bay of Bengal Programme are to develop and demonstrate appropriate technologies and methodologies to improve the conditions of small-scale fishermen and to increase the supply of fish from the small sector. The Govt. of India have objected to the proposed shifting of the project headquarters and have taken up the matter with the FAO. The FAO have informed that a session of the Bay of Bengal Committee is likely to be held in November, 1982 where this matter will also be discussed.

Creation of Land Army

*236. SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Land Army has been created by Karnataka Government and the Government of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether other States are also going to create land army;

(c) what is progress in this regard; and

(d) how much land has been made cultivable by this land army in various States?