

**Setting up of Orange Research Centre in Maharashtra**

\*221. SHRIMATI USHA PRAKASH CHAUDHARI :  
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHEPATIL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to set up an Orange Research Centre in Maharashtra ;

(b) if so, the site selected for setting up the centre ; and

(c) the help and assistance to be provided by Government of India in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) A proposal for the establishment of a Citrus Experiment Station in Maharashtra is under consideration of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

(b) No site has yet been selected.

(c) The pattern and quantum of financial assistance has yet to be decided.

**Pilferage and Black Market of DDA Cement**

222. SHRI D.L. BAIHA : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether some persons involved in pilferage and black market sale of DDA cement have been arrested, if so, the particulars of those persons and whether any of them is a DDA employee ;

(b) the quantity of cement recovered ;

(c) whether it has been further investigated to ascertain how long this racket was going on in the past and the total quantity of cement thus disposed of and whether the same was done with the collusion and connivance of DDA officials responsible for the receipt, storage and utilization of the cement ; and

(d) the procedure for receipt, storage and delivery of cement by DDA and the steps envisaged to plug the loopholes ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH) : (a) and (b). The DDA have reported that the four Junior Engineers of DDA were arrested in this connection and 2166 bags of cement were recovered. However, the information is being verified from the Police Department.

(c) As reported by DDA, the cases are being investigated by the Police Department. They have added that the possibility of connivance of DDA officials in some cases cannot be ruled out.

(d) DDA have reported that after issuing the cement, indented to the Contractor or his authorised representative, the cement truck is required to be escorted by the Junior Engineer/mate concerned from the Stores to the site of work. At the site of work, cement is properly stored in cement godown with double locking system, one lock being of the Department and another of the contractor. The Store balance is systematically checked by the Assistant Engineer and the Executive Engineer. Periodical checks are also made by the Vigilance Department.