

also been organised in Rajasthan with a view to involve local people in the development of community and privately owned wastelands.

[English]

Unified Syllabus in Universities

961. SHRI PALAI K.M. MATHEW: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce unified syllabus in the Universities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) and (b). According to information furnished by University Grants Commission, the Commission initiated in 1986 the scheme of Curricular Development Centres to prepare model curriculum in different disciplines. The main objective was to develop curriculum packages in a modular form so that there would be an element of uniformity in the content of courses throughout the country which would also facilitate mobility of students. 27 such centres, 10 in sciences and 17 in humanities and social sciences, were set up by the Commission. Model curricula has so far been prepared for 24 disciplines in undergraduate and post-graduate courses and 19 have already been circulated to the universities for consideration and implementation.

Financial Assistance for Midtime Meal in Kerala

962. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government has requested for the financial assistance of

midtime meals programme in Kerala schools;

(b) whether Union Government have sought the financial help of World Bank regarding midtime meals in Kerala schools; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(b) In March, 1989, Govt. of Kerala had requested for substantial Central assistance for the State's mid-day meal programme in elementary schools. In response, they were informed in May, 1989 that mid-day meals was a State Sector Programme and was given Central Support only through block grants for Minimum Needs Programme, of which it was a part.

[Translation]

Tree Plantation on Waste Land

963. SHRI M.S PAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the Waste Land area in lakh hectares on which National Mission on Waste Land Development had planted trees during 1989; and

(b) the target that had been fixed for the year 1989 in regard to tree plantation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROURAY): (a) and (b). The target during the year 1989-90 for afforestation/tree planting activities, which includes wastelands development, was to plant 336.86 crore