

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT):

(a) The loss due to forest fires in 931 sq. Kms of forest of Uttarakhand is estimated to be Rs. 12 crore as reported by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) A two member team was constituted on 11.7.95 to enquire into the causes of forest fires and the extent of damage to the forests in the UP Hills and suggest remedies to prevent such large scale forest fires in future. The committee has already completed its field work. They have interacted with the local people, NGOs, representatives of the people and the state and central government authorities to finalise the report which will be submitted to the Government shortly.

Cold Storage

298. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether various State Governments have sent proposals seeking soft loans for setting up of Cold Storages in their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof till date State-wise;

(c) the amount of financial assistance sought by the States from the Union Government for this purpose; and

(d) the amount of loans released so far by the Government; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government of India through National Horticulture Board and National Cooperative Development Corporation is providing soft loan and normal loan respectively for the establishment of Cold Storage Unit directly to the beneficiaries of different State/UTs. The State-wise release of fund by National Horticulture Board (NHB) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) in this regard is given in Statement attached.

Statement

State-Wise Release of Fund by National Horticulture Board and National Cooperative Development Corporation for Cold Storage

S.No.	State	Amount Provided(Rs. in Lakhs)	
		NHB (1993–Nov.95)	NCDC (As on 31.3.95)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	74.50	18.250
2.	Assam	—	5.750
3.	Bihar	2.25	1166.542
4.	Gujarat	—	10.220
5.	Haryana	—	219.906

1	2	3	4
6.	Himachal Pradesh	76.00	8.408
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	13.528
8.	Madhya Pradesh	—	548.151
9.	Karnataka	134.56	50.125
10.	Maharashtra	297.23	8.955
11.	Nagaland	—	16.580
12.	Orissa	—	241.713
13.	Punjab	157.00	44.150
14.	Rajasthan	—	26.815
15.	Tamil Nadu	51.15	68.231
16.	Tripura	25.00	89.286
17.	Uttar Pradesh	35.00	2989.066
18.	West Bengal	—	2180.335
19.	Delhi	—	7.500
20.	Chandigarh	5.00	—
21.	Others	—	2.150

By Pass on Bombay-Pune National Highway No.4

299. SHRI RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a communication from the Government of Maharashtra requesting clearance of forest land for construction of a By Pass near Mumbra in Thane district on Bombay-Pune National Highway No.4;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Mahila Samridhi Yojana

300. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the accounts opened in various Post Offices by the rural women under the Mahila Samridhi Yojana till date, State-wise; and

(b) the policy determined by the Government for making rural women more prosperous as well as self-reliant professionally and how it is being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI VIMLA VERMA) : (a) Given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Mahila Samridhi Yojana was started with a aim to encourage savings among rural women. To increase the interaction of women with Government functionaries, Government has initiated a multipronged approach through Rashtriya Mahila Kosh and Indira Mahila Yojana to provide an easy access to credit and bring about convergence of all sectoral programmes and services for rural women.

STATEMENT

Details of the accounts opened in various post-offices by rural women under the Mahila Samridhi Yojana

Rank	States/UTs	No. of Account Opened (As on 3.10.1995) (figure in lacs)
1	2	3
A. States		
1.	Assam	12.238
2.	Tamil Nadu	19.245
3.	Andhra Pradesh	19.835
4.	Goa	0.271
5.	Karnataka	10.689
6.	Madhya Pradesh	16.070
7.	Mizoram	0.095
8.	Sikkim	0.092
9.	Punjab	3.474
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.952
11.	Kerala	4.271
12.	Haryana	2.398
13.	Orissa	4.322
14.	Uttar Pradesh	13.185
15.	Gujarat	3.186
16.	Maharashtra	5.445
17.	Tripura	0.170
18.	Rajasthan	2.453
19.	Manipur	0.088
20.	West Bengal	3.159
21.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.297
22.	Bihar	3.071
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.024
24.	Delhi	0.030
25.	Meghalaya	0.020
26.	Nagaland	0.012
B. Union Territories		
27.	Chandigarh	0.080

1	2	3
28.	Lakshadweep	0.015
29.	Pondicherry	0.178
30.	Andaman & Island	0.033
31.	Daman & Diu	0.007
32.	D & N Haveli	0.017
Total		125.423

Mahatma Gandhi International University

301. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open an International University in the name of Mahatma Gandhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Mahatma Gandhi Antarashtriya Hindi Vishwa-vidyalaya Bill, 1995 to establish and incorporate a teaching University for the promotion and development of Hindi language and literature, through teaching and research, with a view to enabling Hindi to achieve greater functional efficiency and recognition as a major international language has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on August 24, 1995.

Enhancement of Levy Sugar to States

302. Dr. K.D. Jaswani : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the State Governments who have represented for the enhancement of allocation of levy sugar on the basis of projected population in 1995 instead of 1986;

(b) whether the Government have considered their representations in this regard; and

(c) if so, the time by which the same has been allocated to the various States?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c) There has been a persistent demand for enhancement of levy sugar quota by the States/Union Territories on account of increased population. In view of the better availability of sugar now, the Government have decided to allocate levy sugar to the States/Union Territories on the bases of population as per 1991 Census for distribution through Public Distribution System from the month of January 1996.

Reduction of Import Duty

303. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the palm oil cultivators are facing serious crisis due to the reduction of import duty on palm oil and other concessional measures;