

(a) whether the Union Government have received a request for development of centrally protected Forts in Maharashtra as Holiday Resorts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government;

(d) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) No, Sir, only a request was received from the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation for construction of a cafeteria and a toilet unit inside the Sindhudurga Fort, a centrally protected monument. Since the construction is within the protected limits, it has not been agreed to.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

#### **Global Rice Trade**

343. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is the second largest producer and consumer of Rice in the world but its share in the global Rice trade is only four percent;

(b) whether Rice is India's prime cereal and occupies nearly one-fourth of the total cropped acreage but its yield is 26.7 quintal per acre as compared to the World average of 35.5 quintal per acre;

(c) if so, the reasons for its poor percentage in global Rice trade and low yield; and

(d) the steps being considered to improve its position in the global trade and yield ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The area under rice in the country, according to the latest statistics, is of the order of 23.3 per cent of the gross cropped area. according to FAO Production Year Book 1993, yield level of paddy in India during 1993 was 26.94 quintal per hectare as against world average of 35.75 quintals per hectare.

(c) Export of Indian rice in global market has been low on account of various factors, viz consumer preference, quality, price competitiveness, availability etc. The reasons for low yield of rice include : Less area coverage under HYV of rice and adoption of short and medium duration varieties, low level adoption of improved production technology, low fertiliser use, dependence of large rice area on

monsoon and adoption of crop rotation with two crops in a year in most irrigated area as compared to a single crop of rice in several other countries.

(d) In order to increase export of rice, various measures, such as, removal of price and quantity restrictions on the export of both basmati and non-basmati rice, assistance in organising overseas campaigns and participation in trade fairs/exhibition, provision of financial assistance to exporters in improving quality, packing, brand promotion of products, conducting market surveys, etc. have been taken.

With a view to raise productivity and production of rice, Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, the Integrated Cereal Development Programme (ICDP-rice).

#### **Pests and Insects**

344. DR. K.D. JESWANI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are providing assistance to State Governments for controlling the Pests and Insects which are harmful to the crops;

(b) if so, the details of such assistance provided to each State during 1994-95; and

(c) the progress made so far in effectively controlling the menace of Pests in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of the assistance are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The progress made in effectively controlling the menace of the pests in the country is as under (i) A strong net work of survey and surveillance has been developed all over the country to detect, monitor and forecast pest incidence in various crops which helped in agroecosystem analysis and in taking suitable plant protection measure. (ii) Bio intensive Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programme has been developed wherein conservation and augmentation of natural enemies have been successfully done in case of rice, cotton, sugarcane and vegetables, besides other management options including cultural and mechanical operation, development & introduction of resistant cultivars and lastly safe and judicious use of pesticides. (iii) Liberalised registration policy has been adopted and registration has been given to neem and micro-organism based pesticides. These pesticides are environmentally safe and easy to handle. (iv) Financial assistance has been given for the setting-up of State Bio-control Laboratory which will be used for the mass multiplication of bio-control agents for augmenting naturally occurring bio-control potential. (v) During 1994-95, IPM training cum demonstrations in the form of farmer's field school, Season Long Training, and use of pheromone traps, and Nuclear Polyhedrosis virus