

Annual Bio-Gas Seminar held in New Delhi recently, it was stated by one of the delegates that 2,000 MW power can be generated from cow-dung;

- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government are importing cow-dung from Holland; and
- (d) if so, the usage, thereof and the amount incurred on its import ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the Annual Biogas Seminar organised by a non-government organisation (NGO), namely Action for Food Production (AFPRO) on March 20-22, 1997 at New Delhi, the 'Biogas Network Journal', volume 2 (1997) was circulated, which contained an article entitled, "Need for a Dung Policy". In this article, it was stated that the conversion into fuel of the entire cattle dung generated in the country would be equivalent to 2000 MW of power. This estimate is theoretical and does not take into account that cattle dung is used in our country mainly as a source of manure and domestic fuel and not for the generation of electrical power.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Cow dung has not been imported from the Netherlands (Holland) during the last three years as per the Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India - Volume II brought out by the Directorate Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta.

[Translation]

Markets for Handloom Weavers

6537. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up more markets in the entire country for handloom weavers under Market Development Assistance Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the State-wise number of these markets proposed to be set up during 1996-97 and 1997-98 and the locations thereof; and
- (d) the amount earmarked for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) No Sir. The Government does not set up Market for handloom weavers under Market Development Assistance Scheme.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Reduction of Import Duty on Polyurethane

6538. PROF P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the small scale sector using natural rubber as raw material is facing serious crisis due to reduction in import duty on polyurethane for manufacturing foam;

(b) if so, whether this will further reduce the consumption of natural rubber resulting in reduction of its demand; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Imposition of Anti-Dumping Duty on Unbleached Cotton Fabrics by EU

6539. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the European Union has decided to impose anti-dumping duty on Indian unbleached cotton fabrics;

(b) if so, whether European Union is coming to India to probe the question of imposing of anti-dumping duty on bedlinen also;

(c) if so, whether any efforts have been made by the Government to protect these fabrics from the proposed anti-dumping duties of the European Union; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The European Union has imposed provisional anti-dumping duties on the imports of unbleached cotton fabrics originating in China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Turkey. Final determination, however, is awaited.

(b) An anti-dumping investigation has also been initiated by the European Union against exports of bed linen from various countries including India and as per normal practice they may conduct verification of information furnished by exporters/producers.

(c) and (d) The Government has been providing all

possible assistance to the Indian exporters in the anti-dumping investigation at the diplomatic level.

Closure of Extension Centres in Kerala

6540. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether small industries service institute under Development Commissioner (SSI) have decided to close down their extension centres at shornur, Kozhikode, Muvattupuzha and Attingal in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to review their decision not to close down Extension Centres which are useful for SSI sectors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In 1992, a review of activities of SIDO (Small Industries Development Organisation) was taken up and it was found that SSIs were not using the services of the Extension Centres sufficiently. As such since their utility was not there, 37 Extension Centres were decided to be closed down which include the Extension Centres in Kerala. Respective State Governments were offered to take over these Centres. They were closed only after no State came forward to continue the activities.

(c) and (d) The assets of Extension Centres at Shoranur have already been transferred to Municipal Council, Shoranur, that of Muvattupuzha to Telecommunication and that of Attingal to Science & Technology Development (STED) Project, respectively. As regards Extension Centre Calicut, decision has been taken to transfer the assets to STED and COWD. In order to avoid spreading the resources of SIDO too thinly, it is not feasible to restart or open such centres.

Modernisation of Legal System

6541. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI K.S. RAYADU :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have worked out a comprehensive strategy to modernise and streamline the civil justice through computerisation and adoption of

improved techniques/methods of management practices from drastic improvement in speedy disposal of cases;

(b) if so, the details of the plan under implementation/to be launched during the current year – State-wise and provision of funds therefor;

(c) the status of fresh court cases registered during 1996-97 previous backlog of cases and cases cleared State-wise and new strategies worked out State-wise for disposal of justice; and

(d) other judicial reforms finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Dry Fruits

6542. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of the dry-fruits exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years; country-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of dry fruits during the Ninth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Total quantity of dry-fruits such as cashewnuts, almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, figs dried, grapes (dried) and mixture of nuts exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years are as follows :-

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value Rs. (Crores)
1994-95	83480	1305.90
1995-96	77375	1319.71
1996-97 (April-Sept'96)	39428	721.05

The country-wise details of exports are available in the Annual Number of Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) Some of the steps taken to promote exports of agricultural products including dry fruits are :-

(i) Providing financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control;