

Mismanagement in Institute for Physically Handicapped

2442. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the charges of mismanagement of the Institute for Physically Handicapped since 1974; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to reform the management of the Institute?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) Due to simmering financial and other troubles over some years, the staff, students and workers of the then Jawaharlal Nehru Complex of Institutions went on strike in July 1973. The strike was resolved with the intervention of the Ministry of Labour and this Department. An agreement was reached between the management and strikers in September 1973. The management did not comply with the terms of the agreement but considered it as inoperative. During the period from April to August 1974 a series of articles appeared about the Institution. On the basis of a 'Call Attention Motion' a discussion took place in the Rajya Sabha on 4 September, 1974 about the charges of mismanagement in this complex of institutions.

(b) In view of the charges of mismanagement, Government of India took over the then Jawaharlal Nehru Complex of Institutions on 22 May, 1975. To facilitate the functioning of the Institutions, Government entrusted the management to an autonomous Society named "The Institute for the Physically Handicapped" registered under the Societies Registration Act.

Expenditure Incurred on residences of the Members of the Council of Ministers

2443. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state the amount spent on (a) renovation, (b) furnishing and (c) purchase of additional equipment for residence and office separately by each of the Members of the erstwhile Council of Ministers since 1971 to March, 1977 year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

सरकार के पास दालों का स्टॉक

2444. श्री राघव जी : क्या कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि 15 जून, 1977 को सरकार के पास दालों का स्टॉक कितना था ?

कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्री (श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला) : भारतीय खाद्य निगम के पास 15 जून, 1977 को चना सहित 30.2 हजार मीटरी टन दालों का स्टॉक था । ये खरीदारी सेना त्रय संगठन को सप्लाई करने के लिए की गई है ।

Soil erosion, floods and drought due to removal of forest cover

2445. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that removal of forest cover

which has increasingly contributed to soil erosion, floods and drought in various parts of the country, has also caused other side effects such as extinction of a habitat in which wild life can survive; and

(b) if so, reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) It is known that in the recent past forest area has been deforested for other than forestry and wildlife requirements, such as for river valley projects, rehabilitation of displaced persons, industrial installations, agriculture etc. It has increased soil erosion and run-off accelerating floods in various parts of the country. The wildlife habitat has also consequently shrunk.

(b) The Forestry Division in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has throughout been resisting release of forest lands for other purposes. To check such deforestation, the Central Government has issued directive to the State/U.T. Governments that diversion of forest lands for any other purposes should not be done without prior concurrence of the Union Government. The only exception to this would be in areas where shifting cultivation is traditionally practised. But it is hoped that the State Governments concerned will vigorously tackle this destructive practice.

Large scale afforestation is planned in the upper catchments of the River Valley Projects areas including the catchments in the Himalayana region with a view to control the problem of soil erosion and silting of river beds to moderate the floods. Wastelands and degraded forests are being reforested under two centrally sponsored schemes and Government have increased the allocation for such schemes from Rs. 370 lakhs in the interim budget to Rs. 770 lakhs in the final budget for 1977-78. Such reforesta-

tion plans are being conceived, projected and implemented as providing rural employment and as diversifying production from land for a balanced development of rural economy, and they will simultaneously provide the tree and grass cover necessary to prevent erosion and to moderate run-off, and afford some suitable habitats for wildlife.

Dastur Plan regarding Ganga-Cauvery link

2446. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the Dastur Plan regarding Ganga-Cauvery link some years ago;

(b) if so, salient features thereof; and

(c) whether the Dastur Plan is, under consideration of the Government for implementation in the near future?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (c). Shri Dastur's plan envisages construction of 2300 mile long, 1000 feet wide and 30 feet deep Himalayan Canal extending from Sutlej to Cherrapunji at a uniform level of 3000 feet above mean sea level and 5,500 mile long Southern and Central Garland Canal encircling peninsular India at a uniform level of 1500 feet above mean sea level

The two canals are proposed to be linked by 10 pipes of 12 feet diameter for diversion of water collected from Himalayan streams to the Garland Canal. It also provides for construction of 300 reservoirs of about 0.5 million acre feet storage each along the Himalayan Canal, 600 storages of the same capacity along the Garland Canal, a storage of 300 million acre