

ODA Help for Development of Western Ghats

288. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Overseas Development Agency of United Kingdom is assisting the project for integrated development of Western Ghats; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the whole allotment has been diverted to one State namely Karnataka whereas Kerala and Maharashtra have been deprived of their share of these funds;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) whether the project would be fully implemented in Kerala and Maharashtra as well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) No, Sir. However, an Overseas Development Agency of United Kingdom Consultancy team has recently visited Karnataka to assist the State Government to prepare a project report on integrated development of forests in Western Ghats.

(b) to (d). Question does not arise.

Poison Due to Inferior Quality Stainless Steel Utensils

289. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether inferior quality stainless steel utensils carry poison into human body and are a health hazard;

(b) if so, whether any study in this

regard has been conducted; and

(c) if not whether Government propose to conduct such a study to know the effect of inferior quality of stainless utensils on the human body?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (c). The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Profit by Distributing Agencies in Rice Distribution to Tribals

290. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are supplying rice at subsidised rates to tribals;

(b) if so, which are the distributing agencies;

(c) whether these distributing agencies are making profit out of this rice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Under a scheme introduced by the Government of India w.e.f. December 1985, rice as also wheat are issued to the State Governments/Union Territories for distribution at specially subsidised rates to people living in areas covered under the Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP) and the Tribal majority States of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Lakshadweep and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

(b) Different State Governments/Union Territories have different types of distribu-