

- (vi) Demonstration of improved methods of lac cultivation, collection and marketing; and
- (vii) Training of personnel from State Forest Departments, farmers and NGOs in the use of bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides.

[English]

Damage to Mangoes

2851. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of mangoes is destroyed in coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and in other parts of the country by winds of high velocity and diseases;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to protect mangoes by using a aerosol so as to earn hundred percent foreign exchange; and

(d) if so, the details of scheme being chalked out in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b). There are no reports of large scale damage of Mango in Andhra Pradesh and other parts of country by winds of high velocity and diseases. However, in Andhra Pradesh very small damage of about 2000 tonnes of mangoes in 3 districts of Krishna, West Godavari and Guntur was reported.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Indian Forest Act, 1927

2852. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to amend the Indian Forest Act, 1927;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed amendments therein and the efforts made so far in this regard;

(c) whether some State Governments have demanded the amendment of this Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Indian Forest Act, 1927 is the principal legislation which regulates the management of forest by the States. In some States the Act is applicable as it is, while some of the States have enacted their own Acts which in essence are the adopted versions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. Since its adoption, forestry management has undergone many conceptual changes leading to the new National Forest Policy in 1988. Consequently, the need has been felt for a revised and more comprehensive legislation which would take into account the new National Forest Policy and the emerging imperatives of conservation of forests and wildlife and preservation of nation's bio-diversity.

(b) Broadly speaking, the new provisions/amendments proposed fall into three categories:—

(1) Amendments to the existing provisions with a view to making them more effective.

(2) Incorporation of provisions which already exist in some of the States either by way of amendment to the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or by virtue of new Acts enacted by the States.

- (3) New provisions which are required to give effect to the pronouncements made in the National Forest Policy, 1988.

(c) and (d). A draft of the revised legislation has been circulated among the State Governments for their views before taking up the process of finalising the legislation. The draft Bill would have to be reviewed in the light of the comments from the State Governments as well as considered through joint and collective consultations in Inter-State Council.

Comments have been received from the States/UTs of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Mizoram, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Pondicherry, Daman and Diu and Nagar Haveli. Comments are yet to be received from the States/UTs of Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Tripura and Delhi.

[English]

NIPFP's Policy on Pollution

2853. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), has drafted a new pollution control policy;

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to

(c). The NIPFP has recommended the integration of market based instruments, fiscal incentives and other measures with the existing regulatory regime to achieve efficiency in pollution control policy but only a reiteration and an expansion of a provision of the existing policy Statement of the Ministry of Environment and Forests which states: "Economic instruments will be investigated to encourage the shift from curative to preventive measures, internalise the costs of pollution and conserve resources, particularly water. A direct economic signal is offered by an effluent charge based on the nature and volume of releases to the environment. The level will be based on the cost of treatment and the flow discharged, in order to provide an incentive to set-up treatment plants. The scope of the charges will also be extended to emissions and solid waste. Charges provide a continuing incentive towards optimal releases."

Over Bridges in Madhya Pradesh

2854. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway overbridges approved for construction in Madhya Pradesh alongwith the locations of these over bridges;

(b) the number of railway overbridges presently under construction in Madhya Pradesh with location thereof;

(c) the latest position in regard to the construction of these bridges in physical and financial terms; and

(d) the time by which these bridges are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) to (d). A *Statement* is attached.