

[Translation]

### Agricultural Production

301. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which agricultural production has increased by use of the new varieties of seeds;

(b) whether the country will become self-reliant in the field of production of foodgrains by 2000 A.D. by using these varieties of seeds; and

(c) if so, the details of various programmes being adopted to educate the farmers to make proper use of these seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI. S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) With the use of new varieties of seeds, the agricultural production has increased to the extent of 182.1 million tonnes in 1993-94 comparatively 74.20 million tonnes in 1966-67.

(b) The country has also become self-reliant in the field of production of foodgrains. However, with the use of new varieties and hybrids developed and /or being developed in different crops, it is expected, will help in meeting the further requirement of foodgrains by 2000 A.D.

(c) Use of quality seeds in adequate quantities and in time is propagated through various programmes viz. Seed Minikit Demonstrations, Distribution of Certified Seeds and Farmers training, under different Production Oriented Crop Development Schemes. State Agricultural Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and several other extension agencies are regularly involved in transfer to the farmers.

[English]

### Prawn Culture in Orissa

302. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Prawn cultivation at the cost of forests", appearing in The Statesman, New Delhi dated 6th July, 1995;

(b) whether dense mangrove forest on thousands acres

of land in the Mahanadi Delta in Orissa has been destroyed due to Prawn Culture;

(c) whether these several Prawn ponds had come up in the area violating forest laws;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Mangrove forests in the Mahanadi Delta have been seriously affected by agriculture and prawn farming. About 22 major prawn farms covering approximately 1600 hectares of mangrove forests have come up in Mahanadi Delta violating forest laws.

(e) The State Government of Orissa has booked 70 forest cases against encroachers. Steps have been taken to demolish the prawn ponds and evict the encroachers with the help of Police and Revenue Officials. However, several title suits have been filed by various prawn farmers and in some cases stay orders have been issued by the courts. At present, 27 such title suits are pending in different courts. The Government of Orissa have removed 1.38 hectares of land under prawn culture and mangrove plantation is being raised over this land

### Subsidy to Educational Institutions

303. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether subsidies till now given to Educational Institutions and programmes run or aided by the Government are in the process of being reduced;

(b) have these cuts in subsidies been already effected; and

(c) if so, to what extent and at what level of education?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMAR SELJA) : (a) to (c) Investment in education by Centre and States has been increasing continuously from year to year in spite of resource constraints and competing priorities. Government Policy in regard to financing of education is guided by the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 which envisages the Government and community in general finding funds for educational programmes.