

(c) the project was anticipated to be completed by Oct'94. Project got delayed for completion on account of:

- (i) stoppage of work in Goa sector between Mayem and Bali for 7 months in 1993.
- (ii) adverse geological strata in soft soil tunnels particularly in Goa area.
- (iii) there had been difficulties in fund mobilisation due to adverse market conditions for bonds.

(d) the project is expected to be completed by Dec'95.

Appointment of Vice Chancellor in Banaras Hindu University

1347. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether full time Vice-Chancellor in Banaras Hindu University has been appointed;
- (b) if not, the reasons for the delay; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard and also the measures taken for refurbishing the reputation of the University?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Gajar Ghas

1348. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether "Gajar Ghas" Weed is spreading speedily all over the country during the last few decades and causing several dreadly diseases among human-beings and animals and also polluting the environment;
- (b) whether the sources of sudden spreading of this dreadful Weed all over the country have been found out;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any National policy has been formulated to root out this dreadful Weed from the Country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the measures being adopted by the Government/Scientists of the country to root out this dreadful Weed?

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) "Gajar Ghas" (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) has established itself in many parts of the country. It is reported to cause allergy in some cases.

(b) and (c). Initial source of entry to the country was with consignments of imported wheat. Due to its high seed producing capacity it has spread to many parts of the country.

(d) to (f). The central Government on the basis of the research findings of ICAR Scientists have advised the State Governments to take up following steps to control this Weed;

1. Distribution of pamphlets for the control of the parthenium weed advocating;
 - (i) Physical removal of weeds soon after the on-set of moonsoon;
 - (ii) Observance of proper precautions while undertaking physical removal of the weeds to reduce health hazards;
 - (iii) Foliar spray of common salt solution, Paraquat and 2, 4-D
2. Mobilisation of community efforts for controlling the weed.

[English]

National Commission for Women

1349. SHRI CHEEDI PASWAN :
SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO
VADDE :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether new National Commission for Women has not been set up even six months after the previous panel's term ended;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reasons for delay in presenting the Annual Report of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI) : (a) and (b). Does not arise. The National Commission for Women is a Permanent Statutory body.

(c) Section 12 of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 provides for preparation of Annual Statement of Accounts by the Commission in such form as may be prescribed by the Central Government in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and Section 13 provides for

preparation of Annual Report in such form as may be prescribed. The National Commission for Women (Annual Statement of Accounts and Annual Report) Rules, 1995 which prescribe the form for preparation of the Annual Statement of Accounts and Annual Report were finalised in consultation with Comptroller & Auditor General and the concerned Ministries and notified on 10.1.1995.

The National Commission for Women submitted the Annual Report for 31.1.1992 in February, 1995. The recommendations made by the Commission relate to various issues falling within the purview of various Ministries/Departments. National Commission for Women has forwarded the recommendations to the concerned Ministries/Departments for examination and necessary action. The concerned Ministries/Departments have been requested to send the Action Taken Report on the recommendations relating to them to the Department of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development for consolidation and lying before the Parliament alongwith the Annual Report.

Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas

1350. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas is in operation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with allocation made for the implementation of the Project this year;

(c) whether any area of Kerala has been included in this Project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of benefits derived therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Project is under implementation in 25 States and 3 Union Territories. A total number of 2497 microwatershed projects have been taken up in as many blocks covering an area of 40.35 lakh hectares with an estimated cost of Rs.1128.50 crores. A sum of Rs. 190 crores has been allocated for the implementation of the project in 1995-96.

(c) to (e). Yes, Sir. The Project has been taken up in 114 micro-watershed in as many blocks of 14 districts covering an area of 88276 hectares at a total cost of Rs. 35.84 crores.

The project has helped in reallocation of the rain water for its utilisation in the winter and summer months, regeneration of natural flora, increasing cropping intensity and better production of bio-mass

by adopting diversified farming systems of optimal utilisation of natural resources. Besides, incentives being given to small and marginal farmers as well as landless labourers to take up various activities under household production systems have helped in raising their income level.

Inclusion of Items Under Public Distribution System

1351. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to include pulses and edible oils under Public Distribution System to meet the hardships of Weaker Sections of the society;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c). Central Government is supplying imported edible oil (RBD Palmolein) to States/U.T.s for distribution through Public Distribution System (PDS) on the basis of demand received and availability of stocks. Central Government has no proposal to make available pulses for distribution under Public Distribution System. State Governments/U.T. Administrations are free to distribute pulses on their own through PDS. In order to ensure easy availability of pulses, the import of pulses have been brought under Open General Licence and import duty on pulses has been reduced to 5 per cent from 10 per cent.

[Translation]

World Bank Aided Projects in Gujarat

1352. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names and location of World Bank Aided Projects under implementation in Gujarat;

(b) the Project cost, effective and closing dates of these Projects;

(c) whether the World Bank officials have reviewed these Projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total amount released to by the World Bank and the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) At present only Integrated Watershed Development (Plains) Project is under implementation in the State of Gujarat. The Project covers four districts viz. Sabarkantha, Rajkot, Baroda, Bhrauch.