

State on non-recurring items of expenditure.

- (vii) Export policy on wildlife has been made more stringent.

[*Translation*]

**Formulation of Bio-Sphere Reserve Scheme to Check the Spread of Deserts**

4653. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government propose to formulate any scheme for biosphere reserve in order to check the spread of deserts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the work of preparing this scheme has been entrusted to the Central Institute of Forest Research (Kajari) by the Central Government; and

(d) the regions alongwith the are thereof to be covered under this scheme and the expenditure involved therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. An Expert Committee has been constituted to prepare a project report for setting up a Biosphere Reserve in Thar Desert area in Rajasthan, with the object of preserving the desert eco-system and the diversity of species.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) These details will be available only after the Expert Committee submits its report and detailed action and management plans for the Biosphere Reserve become available.

[*English*]

**Service Condition of Examiners in M. I. Directorate**

4654 DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to

refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3236 on 13 August, 1985 regarding revision of pay-scales of Examiners in M. I. Directorate and state :

(a) reasons for not taking any initiative to review their cadre to improve their service prospects since its inception in 1949;

(b) whether his Ministry is considering some immediate interim measures to improve service career prospects of Examiners in the M.I. Directorate pending submission of the Pay Commission's Report; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) to (c). The service conditions of the Examiners in MI Directorate were reviewed and selection grades created in the year 1981.

Proposals for improvement in the pay scales of these Examiners were also referred to the Fourth Central Pay Commission who have already made recommendations upgrading their pay scales. These recommendations have since been accepted by the Government and given effect to.

**Achievement of Afforestation Targets**

4655. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to afforest 5 million hectares of land per year;

(b) whether out of 75 million hectares of land with Forest Department, about 40 million hectares are degraded; and

(c) the steps taken to supply required number of saplings by way of Tissue culture ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Even though the legally recorded forests areas is 74 87 million hectares, visual interpretation of LANDSAT data obtained in 1980-1982 has shown that forest cover is only 46 35 million hectares, out of which open/degraded forests is 10.06 million hectares.

(c) Application of tissue culture in afforestation of tree crops is still at laboratory stage. Efforts are constantly going on to intensify this work.

[*Translation*]

**Birds dying in National Zoological Park, New Delhi**

4656. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news items appearing on the front page of the 'Jansatta' dated 10 November, 1986 under the caption "Mar Rahe Hain to Isliye ki Vaytha Bata Nahi Sakte";

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken/proposed to be taken in near future to improve the situation keeping in view rapidly dying the animals and birds in National Zoological Park, New Delhi and to maintain the adequate number of animals and birds, in the park; and

(c) whether Government propose to conduct an enquiry by high level committee into the irregularities/bungling committed in this park ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The deaths that have occurred in the National Zoological Park, New Delhi, are not unusually high. However, an enquiry is being conducted in the matter.

[*English*]

**Setting up of Land Development Authority**

4657. DR. PHULRENU GUHA : Will

the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have suggested to all the State Governments to set up land development authorities to utilise the wastelands for afforestation;

(b) whether all the state Governments have set up such land development authorities; and

(c) whether progress made by the States in the plantation of trees on wasteland utilising rural unemployed workers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) The Government of India has suggested to the State/UT Governments to set up a Land Use and Wastelands Development Council/Authority to act as a Nodal Agency for Coordination and implementation of afforestation and wastelands development programme.

(b) According to information available such nodal agencies/mechanisms have been set up in some but in all States/UTs

(c) The total number of trees planted in 1985-86 in the country was 302 crores. As afforestation is a labour intensive activity, the programme has considerable employment potential for the rural unemployed workers.

**Foreign Funds Received by SDRSI, Tirupati**

4658. SHRI KEYUR BHUSHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of foreign funds received by the Society for Development of Rural Sericulture Industry, Tirupati (SDRSI) from the E.Z.E. West Germany during the last three years; and

(b) whether any evaluation of the work by the society has been done ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND