

even though work is to be got executed through CPWD. In the case of quarters for P&T Department, administrative approval and expenditure sanction and execution of work is the responsibility of that Department. As regards construction of quarters in the general pool, it is the responsibility of this Ministry, but unfortunately, at present no funds are available for construction of quarters in general pool in Rajkot. However, the needs of Rajkot for general pool accommodation for Central Government employees will be kept in mind as soon as funds position improves.

Incentive for Cashew Plantations in Goa

4966. SHRIMATI SANYOGITA RANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide incentives to encourage the plantation of cashew in Goa; and

(b) if so, the main feature thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Cashewnut Development, subsidy is provided to encourage raising new plantation at (i) Rs. 900 per hectare in three instalments for private growers subject to a maximum of 4 hectares per individual and (ii) Rs. 500 per hectare in two instalments for Government plantation.

In addition Government of Goa extend subsidy of Rs. 7.50 per hectare on operational charges for spraying Cashew-nut crop against pests and diseases.

Visit of Goan Women's Hockey or Football Team to Pakistan

4967. SHRIMATI SANYOGITA RANE: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a suggestion had been received that a Goan

Women's Hockey or Football team should visit Pakistan; and

(b) whether the suggestion has been approved and sanctioned by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Government has not received any proposal to this effect from the All India Women Hockey Association or the Women Football Federation of India.

(b) Does not arise.

Environmental Pollution

4968. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that environment pollution compounded by the degrading quality of air, water and soil in and around Varanasi is posing a serious threat to public health and plants according to survey conducted by a team of Banaras Hindu University scientists;

(b) whether pollution of the Ganga has created a number of problems; and

(c) if so, the steps which Government propose to take to prevent pollution of the Ganga at Varanasi?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) No, Sir. According to the survey conducted by the Banaras Hindu University Scientists there is pollution of air, water and soil in and around Varanasi but at present there is no serious threat to public health and plants.

(b) Pollution of Ganga Water may cause problem to those who drink raw Ganga water while bathing.

(c) The Government of India have enacted the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, with a view to preventing and controlling water pollution and maintaining and restoring the wholesomeness of water, in the country. Under the provisions