

[Translation]

Air and Water Pollution

2557. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that projects of private sector at Sonbhadra district are expanding their plants by cutting the forests;

(b) if so, whether these projects dump their polluted garbage in the Rihand Water Reservoir due to which this reservoir is becoming full of garbage and ash; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Agriculture Research

2558. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state ;

(a) the details of changes being brought in the agricultural research system to make it more accountable to the country; and

(b) the reasons for poor response of the research work in agriculture while a large sums of money are being invested therein?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Sir, some of the measures taken in this regard include :

- (i) Management Committees and Research Advisory Committees of all the Institutes are in place to regularly monitor the targets and achievements.
- (ii) Research projects are regularly monitored through Research Project files relating to each project and scientists at the Institute level.
- (iii) Account are computerized and project based budgeting and monitoring will be done.
- (iv) Social Audit of achievements are undertaken.
- (v) The Government has delegated the powers alongwith duties to Dy. Director General, Directors in Institutes and Principal Investigators of Schemes so that system is made simplified and also accountable.

(b) It is not correct to say that there is poor response to research work in agriculture. The returns to

agricultural research in India have been estimated to vary from 40 to 200 per cent which is high. The present allocation of money to agricultural research forms only 0.3 per cent of agricultural Gross Domestic Product which has been recommended by Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture to be raised to a level of at least 1% with a tendency to increase the allocation gradually to reach 2% of Agricultural GDP.

Production of Jute

2559. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of jute, kenaf and allied fibres has declined to a record low in 1995-96, in the country;

(b) if so, whether according to the report published by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in the month of June, 1996 the production of the crop was a little lower as compared to the other neighbouring countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the main reasons for the low production and the steps being taken by the Government to meet the shortage of jute during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) The production of Jute, Kenaf (Mesta) and Allied Fibres in 1995-96 in India was lower than the production during 1994-95 but was higher than the production achieved in 1993-94. The details of the production of these fibres in India, Bangladesh and China as per the latest FAO Report for December, 1996 are given below :

Production of Jute, Kenaf (Mesta) and Allied Fibres (Thousand Tonnes)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
India	1335.1	1476.0	1404.0
Bangladesh	782.3	1027.4	652.7
China	672.0	380.0	270.0

(d) The main reason for decline in production of Jute and Mesta in 1995-96 is attributed to adverse weather conditions prevailing in the major growing States. The shortage of Jute and Mesta is not anticipated. However, the Government is implementing a Special Jute Development Programme to increase its production and productivity.