

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute (CICFRI), Barrackpore has initiated several steps for revival of Hilsa fishery in the river Ganga. These include developing technologies for breeding and seed production of Hilsa for restocking the depleted stretches. Further a steady increase in the fishery of hilsa has also been noticed in the Farakka region and in the upstream stretches during the last four years.

(c) The Government of India is implementing schemes/programmes to increase production of fish and other marine products through expansion of aquaculture in fresh and brackishwater, development of coastal marine fisheries, construction requisite infrastructure such as Marketing units, fishery harbours and fish landing centres in all the States and Union Territories including West Bengal.

Project for Sundargarh District, Orissa

5898. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa had sent a proposal for the construction of Arbajhorabahal Community lift Irrigation Project in Sundargarh district of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount already released and the time by which the rest of the amount is likely to be released; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. A Proposal for installation of community lift Irrigation Project at Arbajhorabahal in Sundargarh District was received from Government of Orissa in January, 1993 for release of funds under Additional SCA. The project envisaged irrigation of 4500 acres of land in Kharif season and 3500 acres of land in rabi season in the first phase; and 2790 acres in rabi season in second phase, of 2703 small and marginal farmers of which 2404 belong to Scheduled Tribes. The total cost of the project estimated was Rs. 358.85 lakhs.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs. 158.00 lakhs was released to the Government of Orissa in December, 1994 as Additional SCA, with the commitment that the balance amount would be sanctioned in the subsequent years, depending on the progress of work and utilisation certificate furnished by the State Government. The balance amount could not be released during 1995-96 as a revised proposal with the request to release the balance amount from the

State Government was received as late as on 15.4.1996. In the mean time, the scheme of Addl. SCA was abolished during 1996-97 and as such the balance amount could not be sanctioned. The State Government can, however, utilise the normal SCA for completing these projects.

Polluting Sugar Mills

5899. SHRI SHYAMLAL BANSHIWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many sugar mills are emitting pollution and their effluent is polluting the rivers resulting into the death of many animals;

(b) if so, the details of such sugar mills; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against such mills?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Sporadic incidences of adverse impacts on aquatic life have been reported due to discharge of effluents from industries including sugar mills.

As per the information provided by the Central Pollution Control Board, out of a total number of 392 sugar mills, 309 sugar mills are having the requisite pollution control facilities. 21 sugar mills are closed and the remaining 62 sugar mills do not have adequate pollution control facilities.

(c) Show cause notices under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, have been issued to all the 62 defaulting sugar mills.

Ban on Wooden Furniture

5900. SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan for imposing ban on purchase of wooden furniture for the Government Offices and use of wood in private and Government buildings has been proposed in view of continuous falling of trees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) A Policy Advisory Group was constituted by this Ministry in the year 1990 to advise on wood substitution measures. The recommendations of the Policy Advisory Group have been forwarded to all the State Governments/Union Territories in December, 1992. The relevant portions of the said recommendations read as under:

(i) For building construction and furniture use of solid wood should be restricted and instead wood panels encouraged.