

regarding the undertaking mentioned in part (a) of the question is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Encouragement to Cultivation of Oilpalm

2359. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are encouraging the cultivation of oil-palm in the country;

(b) if so, the measures taken for assistance to States for oil-palm cultivation;

(c) the State-wise production of oil-palm during the last three years; and

(d) the details of extent of land under oil-palm cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) In order to encourage cultivation of oil Palm, Government in providing assistance to selected States under Central sponsored scheme namely, Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP) for planting material, cultivation during gestation period, drip irrigation installation, training of extension staff and farmers, publicity & extension and establishment & staff.

(c) and (d) The State-wise production of Oil Palm Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB) during last three years and extent of area under Oil Palm are given in the Statement.

Statement

State-wise Production of Oil Palm Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB) during last Three years.

S.No. State	Oil Palm FFB Production (Metric tonnes)		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1. Kerala	14,050	19,910	19,901
2. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	9,349	10,868	9,088
3. Andhra Pradesh	983	3,854	6,966
4. Karnataka	237	1,197	1,800
5. Goa	NIL	NIL	28 (P)
	24,619	35,829	37,783 (P)

P—Provisional.

State-wise extent of area under Oil Palm

S.No. State	Area under Oil Palm
1. Kerala	3,646
2. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1,593
3. Andhra Pradesh	17,577
4. Karnataka	6,700
5. Tamil Nadu	5,033
6. Goa	570
7. Gujarat	300
8. Orissa	380
9. Tripura	72
10. Assam	10
11. Maharashtra	1,000
TOTAL	36,881

Creation of Sports Funds

2360. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering possibilities to create separate sports funds to encourage sports;

(b) if so, the total amount spent on sports by Government during the last three years;

(c) whether the funds allocated to the State Governments for sports have been utilised and whether Government have asked for a report thereon; and

(d) if so, the other concrete steps Government propose to take to encourage sports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS) IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to create a National Sports Development Fund.

(b) The total expenditure incurred on sports by the Government of India during last three years is as under.—

Year	Total Expenditure Incurred
1993-94	Rs. 81.11 crores
1994-95	Rs. 71.22 crores
1995-96	Rs. 64.13 crores

(c) The Central Govt. gives matching financial assistance to State/UTs for creation of sports infrastructure. The first instalment of the central share amounting to 90% of the approved central assistance is released only after the State/UTs have spent their own share, and the remaining 10% is released after the completion of the project thus ensuring utilisation of central assistance.

(d) The proposed steps include laying greater emphasis on sports in educational institutions prioritization of disciplines, stress on the development of sports at junior/Sub-junior level preparation of long term development plans in consultation with National Federations, involvement of the Corporate sector in development of Sports infrastructure; scientific back up to sportspersons. etc.

Petrochemical Complex in Orissa

2361. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set-up a petrochemical complex in Orissa in collaboration with Thailand;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project; and

(c) the expected time of completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Management of Hospital Waste

2362. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent past Government had issued a notification for proper management of hospital waste in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite the notification most of hospitals are throwing then-

wastes in the open dustbin causing serious health hazards; and

(d) if so, the remedial action Government propose to take to enforce proper hospital waste management in the country, particularly in the National Capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) Government have notified the draft Bio-Medical Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1995 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for information of the public and concerned agencies likely to be affected, inviting objections. The final notification is required to be issued after considering the comments received.

(c) and (d) The hospitals not having adequate facilities for disposal of medical wastes, quite often, throw such wastes in the open dustbin which gets mixed up with other wastes. As per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has prepared environmental standards and guidelines for management of hospital wastes which has been incorporated in the final draft of the said rules.

Inferior quality of food served by Railways

2363. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of the food supplied by the Railways to passengers in trains and tea and snacks in the restaurants run by the Railway Catering Department is very poor and passengers are being fleeced by the Catering Department;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard during the last three years, year-wise and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to improve the quality of food, tea and snacks served in the trains and on the platforms by the vendors/canteens/ restaurants?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) No Sir. While Railways exercise due care to provide