

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c). According to information received from the State Governments and the assessment made by the Central Teams, Cyclones and floods from May, 1995 have affected 23 States in varying degrees claiming 2,327 lives, and damaging about 22 lakh houses and crops in an area of about 60.00 lakh ha. The extent of damage was particularly high in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya, Orissa, Punjab and West Bengal. The relief measures undertaken by the State Governments include evacuation of marooned people, operation of relief camps, distribution of essential commodities and ensuring health care.

(d) The assistance/relief given to the affected people and farmers vary from State to State. A State Level Committee headed by the Chief Secretary decides the quantum of assistance to be provided to the different categories of people.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Encouragement to the use of Biological Manures

575. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 4080 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th April, 1995 and state whether scientific studies have been made to estimate the loss of fertility of farm soil by the use of chemical fertilizers, if so, what are the findings and if not, whether such a study will be undertaken in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): Yes, Sir; under the aegis of All India Coordinated Research Project on Long Term Fertilizer Experiments of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, changes in soil fertility due to use of chemical fertilisers are being monitored since 1970. Most significant findings of this Project are as under:—

- (i) Exclusive use of NP&K chemical fertilizers in intensively cropped areas has affected soil fertility by way of emergence of micro-nutrient deficiencies.
- (ii) Continued use of nitrogenous fertilizers in acidic soils, without liming, leads to decline in productivity of soils.
- (iii) Balanced and Integrated Use of Chemical Fertilizers and Organic Manure is necessary for increased crop productivity and sustainability of the soil resource base.

125th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

576. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what were the main highlights of the 125th Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation celebrated by the country;

(b) what are the main articles and places associated with his life preserved as heritage and what steps have been taken for preservation thereof; and

(c) whether the proposed installation of Mahatma Gandhi's statue at India Gate, New Delhi on 2nd October, 1995 was given up or postponed if so, in what circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF

EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a). Details are given at Statement-A (see below).

(b) Details are attached at Statement-B (see below).

(c) A Statement is at Statement-C.

Statement 'A'

Main highlights of the 125th Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation

The following are the main highlights:-

- (i) Public function was held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on 2nd October, 1994 in which hon'ble President of India, hon'ble Prime Minister and other dignitaries addressed the gathering. A public function was also held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on 2nd October, 1995 in which hon'ble Prime Minister and other dignitaries addressed the gathering.
- (ii) An International Annual Gandhi Peace Prize has been instituted. The award carries an amount of Rs. one crore and a citation.
- (iii) A Corpus Fund of Rs. Five crores for National Gandhi Museum and of Rs. one crore each for Regional Gandhi Museums at Sabarmati, Berrackpur, Patna, Madurai and Bombay have been created.
- (iv) A National Convention on Panchayats has been organised under the aegis of Ministry of Rural Development.
- (v) A programme for development of 125 blocks in the country is also in the pipeline in the Ministry of Rural Development.
- (vi) Grants of Rs. 45.00 lakhs have been provided to the Kasturba Trust (Gujarat) and Rs. 18.00 lakhs to Kasturba Ashram (Gujarat) for their development and maintenance.
- (vii) A proposal for setting up of an institution on Naturopathy and Indian System of Medicines is

under consideration.

- (viii) The Nehru Yuvak Kendra Sangathan, an autonomous organisation, has organised 'MANAVATA YATRA' which was flagged off on 2-10-95 at Porbander and culminated at Sevagram Ashram (Wardha).
- (ix) State Level Committees in various States/UTs have been constituted to celebrate 125th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The Committees have undertaken various programmes/activities.
- (x) National Archives of India has organised an exhibition on "Archives and Mahatma Gandhi—A Satyagrahi in South Africa" from 1st November to 7th December, 1994.
- (xi) An International Hindi University at Wardha is being established.
- (xii) 2 Gandhi chairs, one in Jamia-Millia and the other is some other University, are being established.
- (xiii) A decision has been taken to institute 12 Research Associateships for Gandhi Studies under the aegis of University Grant Commission.

Statement 'B'

Main articles and places have been preserved/would be preserved as Heritage Associated with the life of Mahatma Gandhi

The main articles and places are as follows:—

- (i) The National Archives of India have a huge collection consisting of 40,000 items and 400 microfilm rolls of material connected with Mahatma Gandhi. These materials preserved at the National Archives of India in ambient storage condition.
- (ii) A Concept Committee has been

constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Sadiq Ali for restoration of Valmiki Bhawan Complex, Mandir Marg, New Delhi where Gandhiji used to stay.

- (iii) A Concept Committee has also been constituted under the Chairmanship of Governor of Bihar for restoration of Champaran and neighbouring estates as well as improvement of Sadaqat Ashram in Patna.

Statement 'C'

A Statement Referred to in Answer to Part (C) of the Unstarred Question No. 576 for Answer on 1-12-1995 in the Rajya Sabha
Installation of Mahatma Gandhi's Statue at India Gate

The decision that the statue of Mahatma Gandhi should be installed on 2-10-1995 to mark the conclusion of the celebration of 125th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was taken by the Steering Committee for the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Quit India Movement held on 22-12-94, under the Chairmanship of the then Minister of Railways. The question of locating a suitable site for the installation of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in the proposed August Kranti Udyan, namely the 'C' Hexagon around India Gate is still under consideration and no final decision has been taken. The following two alternative locations for installation of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi had been referred by this department for consideration of the Cabinet:—

- (i) Whether the statue of Mahatma Gandhi should be installed on the central axis at a suitable distance from the existing canopy, which may be retained as it is by erecting a suitably designed column and pedestal in consonance with the existing architectural features of India Gate in form and colour; or
- (ii) Whether the existing canopy roof, alongwith its four supporting pillars

be removed and the statue of Mahatma Gandhi be installed at the said site, on a suitable stone pedestal, whose design would match the colour and composition of the existing stone work at India Gate.

However, the Cabinet Note was withdrawn as, in the meantime a writ petition (CWP No. 2725/94) had been filed in the Delhi High Court by the Conservation Society of Delhi and INTACH against the alleged proposal to remove the canopy. The Delhi High Court has passed an order restraining the Union of India, the respondents, from altering, mutilating or demolishing the canopy. The matter is, therefore, subjudice.

The work of preparation of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi has been entrusted to Shri C.R.S Patnaik, sculptor stationed at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. The work of preparation of the statue is in progress.

Permission to IDPL to Dispose Off Surplus Land

577. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the MINISTER OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have permitted IDPL to dispose off its surplus land to bring down its losses;
- (b) whether he has recently visited the premises of IDPL;
- (c) if so, the details of bottlenecks found in the functioning of IDPL; and
- (d) the concrete steps taken by Government to revamp the functioning of the IDPL units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) In terms of the existing revival package, approved by the Government and the BIFR, IDPL is supposed to generate funds through sale