

culture systems to avoid any possible" adverse impact on the environment. Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments which include, development of sustainable aquaculture as an eco-friendly activity, treatment of waste water, environmental impact assessment study at the planning stage for units above 40 ha., avoiding use of chemicals and overall improvement in soil and water management practices.

Financial and technical assistance by FAO

3306. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations has offered financial and technical assistance to India to build-up the Panchayat-level food security system;

(b) whether the FAO representatives have pointed out that funds from UN inter-agency group could be used for inter-disciplinary training in village-level planning to ensure food security;

(c) if so, whether Government have signed any agreement with FAO; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (d) A Project proposal "Utilizing Village Panchayats for planning and promoting higher food production through strategy of self-reliance for food security for the poor at the micro (village) level" has been posed to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for seeking technical assistance of US \$ 196,000 under its Technical Cooperation Programme. The project is proposed to be implemented in three Village Panchayats, one each in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Karnataka, to establish the concept of planning and implementation of agricultural production at micro level through Village Panchayats. The proposal is under consideration of FAO.

(b) A Conference on Panchayati Raj—'The Key to Food Security and Nutrition' was organised by the FAO in New Delhi on 2-3 July, 1996. One of the recommendations of the Conference was that the UN Inter Agency group will consider ways and means to strengthen the planning capabilities of the Panchayat Raj at district and block levels by utilizing existing NICNET infrastructure and man power to train persons at the block level in the micro planning process. Based on this recommendation, the FAO is in the process of formulating a project to be submitted to the United Nations Development Programme for inclusion in their Country Cooperation Framework I, which will generally aim at providing training for strengthening the planning capacity at the Panchayat, district and block levels.

The Government not signed any agreement with the FAO.

Steps to Make Learning a Joyful Experience

3307. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

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

(a) whether Government have plan to introduce modern teaching aids and syllabus for small children so as to make learning a joyful experience; and;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPTT. OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) On the basis of the recommendations of the Yash Pal Committee, a broad framework of course of action to reduce academic burden on school children * has been suggested to State/UT Governments for adoption in all stages of school education. In addition, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Operation