

made on the extent of damage caused to cultivable lands due to discharge of tannery effluents on land in Tamil Nadu, particularly in North Arcot Ambedkar district. However, some estimates made in 1982-indicated significant pollution on an area of about 3100 hectares and relatively low pollution in area of about 11,000 hectares. The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is currently studying the impact of tannery wastes on cultivable lands in the State.

### रेलवे में आर्थिक संकट

3304. श्री दिलिप सिंह भूरिया: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या भारतीय रेल, बजट में कटौती और बाजार से ऋण और अन्य संसाधन नहीं जुटाये जाने के कारण से, गंभीर आर्थिक संकट में है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संकट से उबरने के लिये रेलवे द्वारा सरकार से कितनी धनराशि की मांग की गई है;

(ग) वर्ष 1993-94 और 1994-95 के दौरान उनके मंत्रालय द्वारा बाजार और अन्य साधनों से ऋण और संसाधन जुटाने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की गई है; और

(घ) इस संबंध में उपलब्धियों और असफलताओं का व्यौर क्या है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) संसाधन जुटाने के लिए निम्नलिखित कार्यवाई की गई थी:—

1. बजटीय सहायता में वृद्धि।
2. प्रणाली की सर्वोत्तम क्षमता के अनुरूप आंतरिक संसाधनों का जुटाना; और
3. भार १० वि० नि० द्वारा जारी बंध पत्रों के माध्यम से बाजार से संसाधन जुटाना।

(घ) यद्यपि प्रत्याशा के अनुरूप बजटीय सहायता प्राप्त नहीं हुई थी फिर भी जुटाए गए कुल संसाधन रेलों की वित्तीय अर्थक्षमता बनाए रखने के लिए संतोषजनक थे।

### "Cultivation of Prawns"

3305. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cultivation of prawns is causing environmental damage, loss of farmland and unemployment in developing countries including India as reported in the Economic Times dated the 28th May, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Culture of prawns by\* adopting sustainable, eco-friendly and socially acceptable methods as per the guidelines \* issued by the Union Ministry of Agriculture, does not cause environmental damage. Construction of ponds on lands not fit for cultivation alone is permitted for shrimp farming. Conversion of agricultural land for culture of prawns is discouraged and the same is also presently prohibited by the Supreme Court.

In India out of the estimated brackish water area of 12 lakh ha., about 1.44 ha. area presently is reported to be under shrimp farming. Over 75 percent of this area i.e. about 1.08 lakh ha. is under traditional / extensive farming and remaining 36,000 ha. under modified extensive /semi-intensive shrimp farming. It is also estimated that the total annual production of cultured shrimps in India as on 1993-94 was around 84,000 tons. There have been reports of some environmental degradation along Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu coast, in areas where there is a high concentration of shrimp farms.

(c) Government is encouraging prawn / shrimp culture activities under scientific

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