

[18 December, 2001] RAJYA SABHA

(b) whether those could be properly utilised by the PSUs for strengthening their position in the market; and

(c) is so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BR ATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) All the Central PSUs in the pharmaceutical sector have been declared sick by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). The BIFR has sanctioned revival packages for Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL), Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (SSPL), Bengal Immunity Ltd.(BIL) and Bengal Chemical & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.(BCPL). However, the sanctioned packages for IDPL, SSPL and BIL have failed to revive these companies.

Arid Forest Research Institute

2776. SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the physical and financial performance of the Arid Forest Research Institute located in Andhra Pradesh, during the last five years;

(b) whether the scientists working there have invented any new technical know-how during the said period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) There is no Arid Forest Research Institute located in Andhra Pradesh. However, the said Institute is located at Jodhpur in Rajasthan and its performance during the last 5 years, in physical and financial terms, is given at Statement-I (*see below*)

(b) and (c) The achievements made by the Scientists working at the Institute during the said period are given at Statement-II.

Statement-I

The Physical Achievements and Financial Expenditure made by Arid Forest Research Institute (AFRI), Jodhpur during the last five years are as follow:

SI. No.	Year	No. of projects completed	pro- No. of going projects	on-No. of new pro-projects taken up	Financial expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)
1	1996-97	Nil	31	12	290.09
2	1997-98	Nil	39	2	263.53
3	1998-99	9	32	Nil	321.14
4	1999-00	14	15	3	329.59
5	2000-01	4	14	4	294.08

Statemen-II

Some of the major achievements made by the Scientists at AFRI, Jodhpur during the last 5 years are as follow:

1. Three plant species of arid zone identified for bio-cidal activities on various insects causing defoliation.
2. Calligonum and Cenchrus species with Carsia angustifolia have been identified for their ability to control sand drift.
3. Single ridge mound method of plantation in arid region.
4. The cause of mortality by canker disease and mineral deficiency in Acacia ampliceps identified.
5. Bibliography of pests of forests nurseries with special reference to arid regions prepared.
6. Silvi-pastotal techniques for Zizyphus mauritiana, Ailanthus excelsa, Acacia nilotica, Azadirachta indica and Dichrostachys nutans with Cenchrus ciliaris as intercrop, standardized.
7. Most efficient methods of rainwater harvesting to improve establishment and growth of forestry plantations in Indian desert developed. The techniques of water harvesting have shown positive response in Aravali eco-restoration.

8. The work on Neem received recognition in the form of "Award on Neem Research" by ICFRE in 1996 and Vishist Vaigyanik Puruskar to a scientist of the institute awarded in 1998 by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Damage to crops by blue-bulls in UP

† 2777. SHRI SHYAM LAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems of farmers, affected by the damage afflicted by the blue-bulls, to agriculture crops/vegetables/oil/seeds/pulses/sugarcane in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh; if so, the details thereof and if not, whether a survey would be conducted in this regard; and

(b) whether such national loss would be prevented by formulating some effective plan through co-ordinated programme of the Forest Department and the Wild Life Department for elimination wild blue bulls; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Blue bulls essentially inhabit open scrub forests adjoining farmlands and frequently feed on agricultural crops. Some damage to crops by the blue bulls is, therefore, inevitable. However, in certain districts, the damage by blue bulls is reported to be significant. Neither any systematic survey of non-forest areas to assess the extent of damage caused by blue bulls to standing crops has been done nor any proposals have been received in this regard.

(b) Blue bull is included in Schedule III of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State or the authorised officer is empowered to permit hunting of problematic animal that cause damage to standing crops or cause such animal to be hunted.

Liaison Officers in Ministry of Environment and Forests

2778. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Departments/Sub-ordinate and Attached Offices, Public Sector and Autonomous Organizations/Corporations

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.