

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.