

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) For development of Kuttanad Wetland Eco-system as a part of Rehabilitation Package for the farmers in suicide prone districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra, the Government has granted 'in-principle' approval for providing financial support involving financial outlay of Rs. 1,840.75 crore for implementing various programme/interventions suggested by M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation, The approved programmes/interventions are to be implemented by the concerned Ministries/Departments within their existing schemes and funding pattern for which the Government of Kerala will after identifying the activities to be undertaken, submit appropriate proposals after formulation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India in accordance with the approved guidelines/procedures for such schemes for release of necessary funds. The Government has also approved that the programmes/interventions involving financial outlay upto Rs.50 lakhs will be implemented by the State Government of Kerala from their own funds under their schemes.

(b) Ministry of Environment & Forests has sanctioned one project relating to measures for augmenting biodiversity in the backwaters involving an amount of Rs.37.85 lakhs of which Rs.15.75 lakh has been released during 2008-09. Ministry of Water Resources has approved a research study by IIT, Chennai involving amount of Rs.35 lakh for studying the "Modernization of Thanneermukkom Bund and for improving the efficiency of Thottappally Spillway" in June, 2009.

(c) to (e) Projects submitted by the Government of Kerala required some modification/rectification and the State Government of Kerala has already been advised to effectively coordinate and interact with the concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India for sorting out the issues coming in way of sanction of projects.

Setting up of agricultural laboratory in Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Chhindwara

†1522. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs.25 crores have been sanctioned for the setting up of an agricultural laboratory in the Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Chandangaon in Chhindwara district;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the details of the target set to complete it;

(c) the details of the facilities to be provided in it; and

(d) whether farmers will be able to have testing facility in this laboratory free of cost or they will have to pay fees for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Agriculture Research has not sanctioned Rs.25 crores for letting up of an agricultural laboratory in the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) at Chandangaon in Chhindwara district. However, the Council had earlier in 2005 created soil and water testing facility in the KVK. An amount of Rs.11.80 lakh was released for the purpose.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The facility has been provided for testing of soil and water samples drawn from demonstration and on-farm trial plots and also for the samples made available by farmers in the district.

(d) The farmers are being provided the soil and water testing facility on very nominal payment basis.

Proposal for IGIRC for animals

1523. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sanctioned any amount for the Indira Gandhi International Research Centre for Animals at Pulivendula, Kadapa District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when the amount would be sanctioned for this prestigious project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Indira Gandhi International Research Centre for Animals is functioning under the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. No funds have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Proposal from Andhra Pradesh Government for Meat Development Corporation

1524. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for Meat Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon so far; and

(d) if not, by when action would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir, Ministry has not received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for Meat Development Corporation.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Cultivation of raw material for bio-fuel

1525. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank's findings have revealed that 83 per cent increase in food prices has taken place in the last four years;