

Road User Cost Study by the Central Road Research Institute

1275. SHRIMATI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Road Research Institute in its road user cost study has stated that about Rs. 1500 crore could be saved in fuel consumption and wear and tear of vehicles on Indian roads in each year; and

(b) If so, the details of the study made by the Institute and steps suggested to save the money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI):

(a) and (b) In the Road User Cost Study carried out by the CRRI on behalf of the Government, various aspects such as wear and tear of vehicles, vehicle operating cost and savings in fuel consumption etc., as related to road geometrics and road roughness and speeds have been carried out. Quantification of total savings has, however, not been worked out. The study has not yet been fully completed and the Government is yet to take a view on the report.

Adoption of Villages for Socio-economic Development

1276. SHRIMATI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to make concentrated efforts for the socio-economic development of backward rural areas on the basis of voluntary adoption of villages by officials and non-officials organizations;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the number of villages in each State adopted by each Organization so far;

(d) what central assistance is being given to such organizations;

(e) in what manner these villages are being developed; and

(f) whether the Central Government have prepared any guidelines for the development of these villages, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) The adoption of villages primarily aims at (i) to bring about the general increase in agricultural production and thereby to raise the income of the rural community and (ii) to ensure optimum development of the villages so that they become models of development for the neighbouring areas.

(b) The programme of Adoption of Villages envisages that the village to be adopted should have a population ranging from 100—200 farm families with large percentage of small and marginal farmers. Besides, the villages should be adopted preferably in those areas where some Central and State Government programme on crops, animal husbandry, fisheries or irrigation are in operation.

(c) According to available information, 3975 villages have been adopted in different States by various agencies, such as Agricultural Universities/Research Institutions/Research Stations, General Universities, Fertilizer Industry Units, Departments of the State Governments/Union

Territories, Cooperative Banks, Voluntary Organisations etc. etc. The State-wise number of villages adopted by various agencies is as under:—

Name of the State/UT	No. of villages adopted by various agencies.
1. Assam	236
2. Andaman and Nicobar Administration	5
3. Andhra Pradesh	183
4. Bihar	43
5. Chandigarh	2
6. Delhi	10
7. Dadar & Nagar Haveli	2
8. Goa	1
9. Gujarat	431
10. Himachal Pradesh	232
11. Haryana	195
12. J & K	3
13. Karnataka	399
14. Kerala	114
15. Lakshadweep	5
16. Mizoram	6
17. Maharashtra	567
18. Madhya Pradesh	310
19. Orissa	23
20. Punjab	124
21. Pondicherry	2
22. Rajasthan	28
23. Tamil Nadu	458
24. Uttar Pradesh	91
25. West Bengal	168
26. Others where the adopting agencies have not indicated the name of States.	337
Total No. of villages adopted. :	3975

(d) No central assistance is provided for the adopting agencies.

(e) According to the information available various programmes for increasing agricultural production (including dryland farming, oilseed and pulses programme), providing credit facilities, agricultural implements, fertilizer promotion, bio-gas development, Social Forestry, Marketing, Transfer of Technology through Minikit Demonstrations, distribution of inputs, Soil Testing, digging of wells, horticulture development etc., have been taken up different agencies in the several adopted villages.

(f) Broad guidelines for the adoption of villages have been prepared. This includes the objective of the adoption of villages, criteria for selection of villages for adoption, agencies for adoption, number of villages to be adopted, Role of adopting agencies, Organisational arrangements, Operational Plan etc., etc.

Performance of Indian Cricket Team that toured Pakistan recently

1277. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report from the cricket control board of India on the poor performance of the Indian cricket in Pakistan recently;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.