

Schools of Municipal Corporation of Delhi alongwith the pay scale of Junior Teachers in Crafts, Language, Music, Dance, Physical Education and Domestic Science-

(b) whether Government propose to reconsider the case of Headmasters of primary schools in the light of demands made by the Joint Council of Delhi Teachers;

(c) if so, by when their case is likely to be reconsidered; and

(d) if answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) to (d) The upward revision of pay scale of Junior Teachers in Crafts, Language, Music, • Dance, Physical Education and Domestic Science was agreed to keeping in view the fact that these teachers were teaching classes VI to X like other Trained Graduate Teachers. They were eligible for promotion to the higher grade after rendering service for a number of years even if they were not graduates. It was also stipulated that in future there would be no recruitment of unqualified teachers in the scale of junior teachers. The Primary School Headmasters do not satisfy the above conditions. Notwithstanding the above, the revision of pay scales from Rs. 425—640 to 440—750 is receiving sympathetic consideration and at this stage it is not possible to indicate any time limit by which it is possible to revise the pay scales.

Research for the use of Radio-Active Isotopes in Agriculture

*397. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the outcome of the research for the use of Radio-active isotopes in agriculture; and

(b) what is the scope of India for the research of radiation method on

various seeds plants diseases and pests and what is the achievement and future programme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) Using Radioactive Iso-tops as tracers and source of radiation significant progress has been made in agricultural research relating to problems involved in the efficient use of fertilizers, pesticides, and irrigation water. Also, new genetic variability has been created through this technique for evolving superior varieties of crop plants. Research work has also been taken up for the preservation of fish, meat, fruits and grains through irradiation.

(b) There is considerable scope in India, as in other countries, for the application of radiation techniques in evolving improved farm varieties of crop plants and in making more efficient use of various farm inputs such as chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Already in the country, improved varieties of groundnut and castor bean and a number of other crops have been released on the basis of work of this kind. The Government of India proposes to give priority to research work in this area and a large number of research centres in the country will continue to take up research programmes in these fields.

Destruction of Forest Reserve Trees in Assam

398. SHRI ROBIN KAKATI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unscrupulous timber contractors, some mills and plywood factories timber supplying agents in collusion with forest officials have been engaging a section of encroachers of forest land and outside labourers to cut down valuable forest reserve trees even not fully grown up and later on these trees are auctioned at a very low rate in Assam