

ter and more methodical attention to research in selected, important areas;

(iii) To raise standards of education; and

(iv) Speed up the work of preparation of Pharmacopoeia as well as to exercise suitable control over drug manufacture.

It has also been decided to set up a 300 bedded Ayurvedic Hospital in Hari Nagar Delhi. Besides, steps are being taken to review the existing administrative and technical set-up for I.S.M. and Homoeopathy in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and to re-organise the same with a view to strengthening it.

#### National forest policy

\*195. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISO-DIA:

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBULLAH:

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:

SHRI PRAKASH CHAND MEHROTRA:

SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have circulated a draft on the national forest policy to expert bodies in the country for their comments; and

(b) if so, what progress has so far been made in regard to its finalisation and implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per recommendations of the Estimates Committee (1968-69) in its 76th Report the revision of National Forest Policy, 1952 was taken up. The draft prepared on the broad outlines indicated by the FAO and the suggestions given by the Study Group of the National Commission on Agriculture was submitted to the Central Board of Forestry in October, 1974 for approval. On the recommendations of the Central Board of Forestry, a sub-committee consisting of Forest Ministers of some of the States alongwith technical experts was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri R. J. Deotale, the then Forest Minister of Maharashtra in April, 1975 to finalise this draft. The sub-committee coopted the representative of Tribal Welfare Department (Ministry of Home Affairs), Government of India and Member (Forestry), National Commission on Agriculture for their views. It also circulated the draft of the revised National Forest Policy to the States for obtaining their comments. On the basis of the comments and the views of the technical experts and members of the sub-committee the draft was finalised and was submitted to the Central Board of Forestry for approval. The Central Board of Forestry has approved the draft in December, 1976 subject to further scrutiny by the Ministry.

On the recommendations of the Central Board of Forestry the draft is being scrutinised in the Ministry. A few minor changes in order to place proper emphasis on wildlife as discussed in the last meeting of the executive committee of the Indian Board for Wildlife have still to be carried out on the basis of suggestions which are being received and scrutinised.

When the draft is finally cleared by the Ministry the opinion of Legal Affairs Department would be solicited as to how to obtain acceptance or endorsement of the Parliament before it is issued in the proper form.