

Package of practices for sustained lac production on traditional trees, like *kusum*, *ber* and *palas*, has been developed. These practices comprise several basic features such as pruning, rest to host trees, inoculation, rate of application of brood lac sticks and use of plant protection chemicals.

Suitable combination of lac with synthetic resins to produce improved shellac for different industrial uses (particularly for surface coating) has been developed.

Use of lac as a cheap and effective rocket fuel is being successfully tried in cooperation with Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi.

A method for manufacture of shellac directly has been developed increasing the yield of lac by about 0—25 per cent over the conventional cottage industry or mechanized processes.

The Achievement Audit Committee for the Indian Lac Research Institute in its report, received earlier this month, states "Top priority should be given to production of lac, not by the traditional method from forest and agricultural areas where lac host trees exist, but more important cultivation on plantation basis with bush plants and fast growing conventional host plants for lac. Unless this is done lac industry in the international market is likely to phase out. . . ."

This statement is based upon the work done recently at the Institute. Since this strategy will take several years before it is sufficiently widely adopted by growers, and since the many tribal people who have deriving some earning from cultivation of lac on trees as a subsidiary enterprise, the Institute has continued its work on developing package of practices applicable to trees. Staff engaged on lac development has been receiving training at the Institute to enable them to more effectively discharge their functions.]

### Experts' Report on Haldia

\*76. MISS SAROJ PURUSOTTAM KHAPARDE:

SHRI K. B. CHETTRI:

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received the Expert's Report on Haldia project from the West Bengal Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government to complete the project within the scheduled time?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMLA-PATI TRIPATHI): (a) and (b) Presumably, the Honourable Members have in mind the report submitted by the Working Group which was appointed by the Government of India to study in depth the question of setting up of a shipyard at Haldia. The Group included the representative of West Bengal Government. The report of that Working Group was received by the Government in March, 1973. The Working Group has recommended that Haldia qualifies itself as a suitable location for a new shipyard.

(c) Proposals for settings up shipyards were received from several other State Governments also. The Government of India appointed on 1st May, 1973 a Techno-Economic Working Group to evaluate various sites recommended by the State Governments. The report of this Working Group is expected shortly. Final decision regarding the sites including Haldia for new shipyards proposed to be set up during the Fifth Five Year Plan will be taken in the light of the recommendations of the Haldia Working Group and the Techno-Economic Working Group.

\*77. [Transferred to the 19th November, 1973.]