

(b) The maximum selling prices of four major fertilisers viz., Ammonium Sulphate, Urea, Calcium Ammonium Nitrate and Ammonium Sulphate Nitrate are statutorily controlled and any report of sale at higher prices is immediately investigated by the concerned State Governments and action taken under the Fertiliser (Control) Order 1957 issued under the Essential Commodities Act.

The sale price of Muriate of Potash is also regulated by the Government of India.

With the establishment of larger fertiliser factories with latest technology, the cost of production and hence the price of fertilisers are expected to come down. The National Development Council had laid down that the agricultural inputs including fertilisers should not be subsidised and that prices of agricultural output should be maintained at an incentive level as an encouragement to the farmers.

UNIVERSITY STUDIO IN DELHI

*559. **SHRI INDER SINGH:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a University Broadcasting Studio in Delhi;

(b) if so, the role that the studio will be assigned; and

(c) whether the studio will also be utilised for giving lectures for university courses and if so, whether students of other states will be permitted to take the examinations for which the radio will impart lectures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) No, Sir; not for the present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

FOREST WEALTH

1220. **SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to exploit the forest wealth in the country by any special scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE): (a) and (b) There is no special

scheme under the consideration of the Central Government for exploitation of forest wealth in the country. However, the Government of India have undertaken two projects (i) Preinvestment Survey of Forest Resources, and (ii) Logging Training Project which would indirectly help in fuller and better exploitation of the timber resources of the country.

The Project of Preinvestment Survey of Forest Resources envisages detailed investigations of economic availability of forest resources of the country and their technical suitability for establishing suitable forest industries. The Logging Training Project on the other hand aims at providing training to the personnel engaged in timber extraction operations with a view to introduce improved methods of logging.

Preinvestment Survey of Forest Resources Scheme started as a joint UNDP/FAO/GOI Project in 1965 was carried over an area of about 29,260 sq. kms. in three zones namely Northern Zone (Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh) Central Zone (Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra) and Southern Zone (Mysore and Kerala). The total funds provided for it were Rs. 131 lakhs at pre-devaluation. Further as part of the follow up programme by the Government of India, a detailed scheme has been approved with a view to conduct preinvestment survey over an additional area of approximately 85,000 sq. kms and during 1969-70 the Preinvestment Survey of Forest Resources has completed field work in respect of forest area of Jammu & Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

As regards the Logging Training Project, it came into commission from August 1965 and concluded on 31-8-69. The Project has, however, been continued into the Fourth Plan and 1120 forest personnel have been trained upto 1969-70.

The information in regard to any special schemes to exploit forest wealth taken up by States/U.Ts is being collected and the same will be placed on the Table of the Rajya Sabha as soon as it is received from the respective State/U.T. Governments.

RADIO TELEPHONE SERVICES BETWEEN INDIA AND NORTH KOREA

1221. **SHRI NIRANJAN VARMA:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the radio telephone service and radio telegraph service have recently been started between India and North Korea;

(b) if so, since when; and