

**Afforestation in Assam**

**\*250. SHRIMATI SYED ANWARA TAIMUR :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money released by Government for afforestation in Assam for the year 2004-05;

(b) whether afforestation works have begun; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):** (a) An amount of Rs. 6.73 Crores has been released to Assam during 2004-05 under the National Afforestation Programme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) An area of 6450 hectares has been covered during 2004-05.

**Procurement of crane from Switzerland**

**†\*251. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY:**

**SHRI SANJAY RAUT:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has procured a crane worth Rs. 800 crore from a Swiss company which has not been utilized so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether irregularities and scam have been committed in the procurement and the said crane is of inferior quality and of lesser capacity;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether two former Railway Ministers have recommended to look into the matter; if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.