

STEPS TO REDUCE RICE CONSUMPTION IN WHEAT AREAS

423. SHRI D. THENGARI : Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT and COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India propose to take steps to reduce consumption of rice in the wheat-eating areas in the country, such as Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi so as to make more rice available in the rice-eating areas; and

(b) if so, what will be the approximate quantity of rice that can be saved immediately in this way ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantity likely to be saved cannot be assessed as yet.

EXPORT OF TIMBER

424. SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE : Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT and COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are exporting timber, used for building purposes, to Japan; and

(b) If so, what steps are being taken by Government to encourage plantation of timber-yielding trees in the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) No timber is exported to Japan by Government. However, according to the information available a small quantity of constructional timber namely, Laurel and other hardwoods has been exported to Japan by the exporters.

(b) The State Governments are raising large scale plantations in successive Five Year Plans with a view to meeting the increasing demands of wood including timber in the country. During the current Plan, the States are expected to raise plantations over an area of about 8.7 lakhs acres. Under the Fourth Plan a target of raising plantations over an area of 18.00 lakhs acres has been proposed.

उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार द्वारा विदेशी मुद्रा की स्वीकृति के लिए प्रार्थना

425. श्री महाबीर दास : क्या खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास और सहकार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार से जंगली हाथियों का दमन करने के लिये, जो राज्य के लगभग सात जंगलों में उपद्रव मचा रहे हैं और फसलों को नुकसान पहुंचा रहे हैं, बन्दूकों खरीदने के वास्ते 2500 रुपये की कीमत की विदेशी मुद्रा की मांग की है; और

(ख) यदि उपरोक्त भाग (क) का उत्तर 'हां' हो, तो क्या राज्य सरकार को विदेशी मुद्रा की मंजूरी दे दी गई है और यदि उसकी मंजूरी नहीं दी गई है तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

†[REQUEST FOR GRANT OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE BY U.P. GOVERNMENT

425. SHRI MAHABIR DASS : Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT and COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Uttar Pradesh has asked for foreign exchange worth Rs. 2,500 from the Central Government for purchasing guns with a view to controlling wild elephants which are causing havoc in about seven forests of the State and damaging the crops; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in affirmative, whether the foreign exchange has been granted to the State Government and if the same has not been granted, what are the reasons therefor ?

खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास और सहकार मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री अन्नासाहेब शिंदे) : (क) जी हां।

(ख) वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान में विदेशी मुद्रा के नियतनों की कमी के कारण "कैमचुर" बन्दूकों के आयात के लिए उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को विदेशी मुद्रा नहीं दी जा सकी। राज्य सरकार को इसके बारे में सूचना दे दी गई थी।

†[]English translation.