

They are under the consideration of the Government of India.

## STATEMENT

*Resolution adopted by the General Body at the First Annual Session of the Soil Conservation Society of India.*

(a) The Soil Conservation Society of India notes with satisfaction that the Planning Commission of the Government of India has recognised the importance of Soil Conservation in the Planned Development of the country's economy and has made recommendations for the creation of suitable organisations at both the Central and State Governments levels, for surveys of erosion problems, preparation of plans and for their implementation. The Society extends its whole-hearted support to the Government in promoting soil conservation work.

(b) The Society urges upon all its members and delegates in the various States to help in making an assessment, qualitative and quantitative, of erosion problems in their respective States by determining the magnitude of the areas affected by various types of erosion and outlining measures for conservation of soil and water.

(c) The lack of adequate basic data for planning proper soil conservation projects was brought out in the various papers read before the session and the Society feels that it is a matter of urgency that more work be done on standardisation of methods of survey and collection of basic data regarding runoff, silt loads, rainfall intensity measurements and river discharge readings, so that an adequate system of basic data suitable for soil conservation work is built up.

## GROWTH AND FELLING OF SAL TREES

\*297. DR. R. B. GOUR: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the great crisis which the Sal industry is facing due to the diminishing

growth and the increased felling of Sal trees; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMED KIDWAI): (a) Yes.

(b) A party consisting of two officers of the Forest Research Institute, 2 officers of the U.P. Government and one officer from each of the States of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh undertook a joint study tour of about six weeks in the Sal bearing forests of U.P., Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. On the conclusion of the tour, a Conference was held very recently at Dehra Dun when the question was fully considered, bearing in mind the silvicultural and other aspects of Sal. The recommendations of the Conference will be brought to the notice of State Governments for implementation.

## BONUS ON EXPORT OF RICE FROM ORISSA

\*301. SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa have made any representation for increase in the bonus granted on the export of rice from the State; and

(b) if so, (i) what action has been taken thereon; and (ii) whether Government will place a copy of the said representation on the Table of the Council?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMED KIDWAI): (a) Yes.

(b) In view of the Centre conceding a bonus of 8 annas per maund upto the first three lakhs tons of rice for export and Re. 1 per maund thereafter, it was considered that there would be no ground for further increase of bonus to the extent of Re. 1 per maund for all exports, as desired by the Orissa Government. There is no written representation and the request was made during discussions.