

[16 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

Training to farmers for conservation of water

504. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the action taken to provide training to farmers to take up water conserving techniques such as drip irrigation to preserve water being used indiscriminately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme - Supplementation/Complementation of States' efforts through Work Plans (Macro Management)—having 'Development of Use of Plastics in Agriculture'—as one of its component. Under the above said component, seventeen precision Farming Development Centres are functioning in different agro-climatic regions of the country where farmers are being trained in adopting improved irrigation techniques like drip irrigation.

Besides, the Ministry of Agriculture is also promoting water conservation techniques, including drip irrigation, through various extension activities like booklets, radio talks, Gosthies.

**Closing down of Inland Fisheries Research Centre at Alapuzha,
Kerala**

505. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is associated with the inland fisheries studies of Kerala through the Inland Fisheries Research Centre located at Alapuzha in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of research projects, initiated and ongoing, in the centre for the last three years, year-wise, category-wise;

(c) whether authorities plan to close the office of the centre at Alapuzha;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether steps will be taken to continue the above centre in the context of the fragile eco-system of region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.