

Agro-Forestry

231. SHRI BAPU RARI CHAURE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop agro-forestry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to encourage the farmers and rural landless in this direction;

(d) whether 'Tree Patta' i.e. allotment of land for tree plantation is being encourage by some State Governments to boost the agro-forestry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). Promotion of Agro-forestry is an ongoing activity of State government. Supply of seedlings and technical guidance is being offered by State Forest Department.

(c) Central Government is encouraging formation of tree growers' Co-operatives to stimulate Agro-forestry. In addition, activities like supply of forest seeds, seedlings and collection, storage and marketing of forest products are encouraged through financial assistance under Integrated Rural Development Programme.

(d) and (e). Yes. In pursuance to guidelines issued by Government of India in 1986, States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh have introduced tree patta schemes on the lines of model circulated by Government of India. Andhra Pradesh has its own scheme called 'Afforestation of degraded forest with family assistance' which is a modified form of the model Tree Patta Scheme. The States of Gujarat,

Karnataka and Rajasthan have introduced land leasing schemes under which beneficiary is leased out land for a certain number of years. Orissa has also launched this scheme recently. The Union Territory of Pondicherry has a tree patta scheme which was started before the introduction of model tree patta scheme by Government of India.

[Translation]

Coal Deposits

232. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total deposits of coal in the country and for how many years it will last keeping in view the pace at which extraction of coal is going on at present;

(b) whether keeping in view the above situation the Government propose to find out other alternative of fuel; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). The total deposits of coal in the country have been assessed by the Geological Survey of India to be about 196 billion tonnes as on 1.1.1992. Considering the mineable reserves and the growth of coal consumption in the foreseeable future, the coal deposits are adequate for more than 100 years. Besides coal, other sources of commercial energy are petroleum products, natural gas and nuclear energy etc. However, coal will continue to be the major primary source of commercial energy in the country.

Registration of New Industries in Bihar

233. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to states: