

pollution control equipment to comply with the prescribed norms, modified directions were issued to both these industries to ensure that they complied with the prescribed environmental standards.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up of Nurseries

2392. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government have any scheme to hand over degraded lands to co-operative societies and others to set up nurseries and grow more trees;

(b) if so, the detailed plans in this regard;

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be started;

(d) whether the Government also propose to appoint 'Van Mukhias'; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with their duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (RAJESH PILOT) : (a) There is no specific scheme to hand over degraded forest lands to co-operative societies and others to set up nurseries and grow more trees.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Guidelines for involving village communities for protection and conservation of forest and plantations has been issued to all States and Union Territories Government which stipulates nomination of 'Van Mukhias' in village panchayats. Main duties proposed for 'Van Mukhia' would comprise of providing assistance to the Forest Department in promoting afforestation, conservation of natural forests and motivating local people for prevention of illegal activities.

As an incentive, the 'Van Mukhia' is proposed to be given upto 10% from the proceeds of each plantation at the time of final harvest which would be over and above the normal revenue sharing under joint forest management and other usufructs sharing schemes.

[English]

Schools with Foreign Assistance

2393. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schools functioning with foreign assistance in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to take over those schools; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION) (DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI) : (a) Statistics regarding the number of schools set up with foreign assistance in different States and UTs of the country is not maintained in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, as school education is mostly looked after by the State/UT Governments.

(b) No, sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Educational Technology Scheme

2394. DR. SAKSHIJI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Primary Schools and Upper Primary Schools to which assistance have been provided in Uttar Pradesh under the Educational Technology Scheme, district-wise;

(b) whether Urdu Schools in the State have been provided assistance under the Scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION) (DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI) : (a) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Forest Fire in Himachal Pradesh

2395. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of damage to the forests of Himachal Pradesh in terms of forest areas affected, the trees and plants burnt down and the wildlife destroyed due to fire this year in summer; and

(b) the steps taken to minimise the damage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) As per reports received from the state government of Himachal Pradesh 305 sq. km. of forest area has been affected during 1995 fire season. The fires have mainly affected the pine forests where, surface fires are caused by the local people in order to burn the pine needles to get a flush of fresh grass. There is no report of loss of wildlife from the state.

(b) Following are the steps taken to minimise the damage due to forest fires.