

**Project for Cleaning of Rivers**

**915. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to launch national project for cleaning the country's rivers as an extension of the Ganga Action Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated expenditure thereon and the modus operandi of financing it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI-MATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c). The meeting of the Central Ganga Authority held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 11.9.89 had decided that pollution abatement schemes for the Yamuna will commence in the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan. Pollution abatement schemes for other rivers in the country including the Yamuna, would depend upon the availability of resources in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

**Review of Environment Policy**

**916. SHRI A. ASOKARAJ:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of reference and details of the members of the High Level Committee set up to review the environment policy, especially with a view to protecting the tribal interest;

(b) whether the existing environment policy has failed to protect the interests of tribal population in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI-MATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) An inter-Ministerial Committee has been set up to examine the various issues pertaining to protection of the rights and concessions enjoyed by tribal people and how their conditions can be improved, giving the attention to long run ecological sustainability and conservation of forests and bio-diversity.

The terms of reference of the Committee are given below.

- (i) To examine the rights and concessions enjoyed by the tribal communities with regard to access to forest products and to identify measures for improving the access concomitant with sustainable management of resources.
- (ii) To examine the implementation of various rules and regulations and to identify measures for improving their efficacy as regards fulfilment of the traditional rights and concessions.
- (iii) To review the existing measures for participation of tribals in forestry programmes and to propose measures for strengthening the same.
- (iv) To review the tribal sub-plan and to recommend measures for qualitative and quantitative improvement in implementing the various programmes.

(b) and (c). The National Forest Policy, 1988 aims at protecting the interests of tribal population in the country, and recognises the symbiotic relationship between the tribals and the forests. It lays down that the rights and concessions from forests should primar-