

Funds for Forestry

1251. SHRI SOBHANADRESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made for forestry during Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plans and its percentage to total allocations under these Plans;

(b) the reasons for allocation less percentage of funds during Eighth Plan period;

(c) whether any foreign donor agencies have found that due to inadequate funding by the Government the externally aided forestry projects had failed to make the progress as laid down in approved Projects documents; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures taken by the Government to preserve forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) The allocations for forestry & wild life during Seventh Five Year Plan was Rs. 1859.10 crores and it constituted 1.03% of the total Plan allocation. The total Plan allocation for the forestry & wild life sector during Eighth Five Year Plan is Rs. 4081.87 crores and it is 1.69% of the total Plan allocation during the Eighth Plan.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In some cases the external donor agencies have pointed out provision of inadequate counterpart fund in the State budget for externally aided forestry projects resulting in slow progress of the project activities. The Central Government has taken up the matter with the concerned State Governments and requested them to enhance the budget allocation to match the project outlay. The State Governments measures have taken necessary remedial measures to the extent a balancing of competing demands arising from several other sector and availability of resources permits this.

(d) Various measures taken by the Government to ensure conservation of forests include stricter implementation of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, massive afforestation programmes including rehabilitation of degraded forests particularly forest management, social & farm forestry, eco-development programmes, increased protection activities etc.

[Translation]

Hilly Development Board

1252. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA:
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for constituting a Hilly Development Board for the development of hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh has been pending for decision with the Union Government;

(b) if so, since when it has been pending alongwith its present position;

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(d) the policy of the Government and the steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG) (a) There is no proposal before the Planning Commission for constituting a Hilly Development Board for the development of hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Social Sector Programmes

1253. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to set up a joint machinery with voluntary organisations of the country for pursuing social sector programmes vigorously;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of voluntary organisations identified in this regard; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI HARIBHAI PATEL) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An Action Plan for a collaborative relationship between voluntary organisations and Government was evolved at the joint meeting of the voluntary organisations and Secretaries to the Government of India in the various social sector Ministries held on 7th & 8th March, 1994. The Action Plan provides for a joint machinery to be set up consisting of select voluntary organisations with experience in the field of actual implementation of programmes in the social development sector including those with particular reference to eradication of poverty and Secretaries to the Government of India directly concerned with anti-poverty programmes. Accordingly, a joint machinery has been set up on 9th September, 1994 to operationalise the recommendations of the Action Plan. The composition of the Committee is given in the enclosed statement.

The joint machinery will be responsible, among other things, for evolving models of development that would keep at all times people at the centre, such models resting on social mobilisation and organisation of the people at the grassroot level and the groups so organised being buttressed by support structures at appropriate levels. The models evolved should be such that they would lead to the people being empowered and prepared to run programmes meant for them on their own, with the required support from non-government organisations who would act as catalysts.

The first meeting of the joint machinery was held on 2nd December, 1994.

Statement

Composition of Joint Machinery

| | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission | Chairman |
| 2. Cabinet Secretary | Member |
| 3. Member Secretary, Planning Commission | Member |
| 4. Secretary, Education | Member |
| 5. Secretary, Women & Child Development | Member |
| 6. Secretary, Rural Development | Member |
| 7. Secretary, Health | Member |